



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## 'Blue Church' Inches Closer to Demolition

Summer Brings Wins for Condo Developer

By Corrie M. Anders

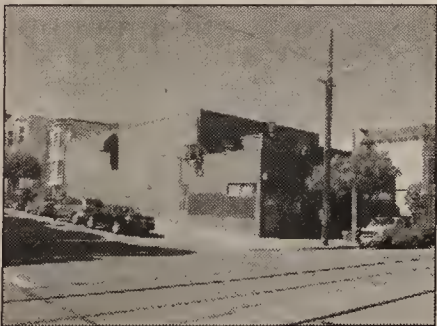
The Church of San Francisco in Noe Valley was supposed to be long-gone by now—knocked down to the studs and born again as a condominium complex.

But the "Blue Church," as it's known along outer Church Street, remains the focus of a nasty two-year eviction battle between the Rev. Joesiah Bell and his former development partner.

Last year, the church was in the ascendancy, having won a dismissal of a property title suit (see March 2008 *Voice*). This summer, however, the legal gods smiled on the developer.

On June 19, an appeals panel of three judges in San Francisco Superior Court tossed out a jury verdict that had favored the church and its homeless tenants. In August, the church lost two more appeals

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The "blue church," whose current occupant is the Church of San Francisco Where Jesus Is Lord, Inc., was founded as a silent movie theater in 1916. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

## Local Artist Sets Out to Map Neighborhood's Oral History

A Chance to Red-Flag Your Memories

By Lorraine Sanders

Longtime riders of the 48-line, take note: If one day roughly 19 years ago you were quietly enjoying an afternoon bus ride only to be unceremoniously thwacked by a water balloon whizzing through an open window as the bus turned onto Douglass Street, we may have located a person involved in aiding and abetting the offense: Eureka Street resident Claire Kessler-Bradner.

Just don't go too hard on her. She was only 9 at the time.

The water balloon incident is but one of the many snapshot-sized memories Kessler-Bradner is making public in the *Noe Valley Project*, a mixed-media piece she has created as part of graduate work at California College of the Arts. The yearlong project will explore the inter-



Carol Small, Noe Valley's favorite reader of books and singer of songs, is retiring after 19 years as children's librarian at the branch library on Jersey Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

## Children's Librarian Carol Small Retires

Time for a Break from "The Eensy Weensy Spider"

By Jan Goben

"And now we're going to do the peek-a-boo song," says Carol Small, standing tall before a group of 2- and 3-year-olds sitting on the rug or on the laps of their mothers or caregivers during the Noe Valley Library's Tuesday-morning lapsit. Fifteen to 20 adults fill the room, each with one or two children in tow.

"Peek-a-boo, peek-a-boo," Small sings out, bending down and putting her hands over her eyes.

One member of the audience stands up

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## A Murder of Crows, or Requiem for a Featherweight

By Tim Innes

From a eucalyptus high above Church Street, a crow watches a songbird return to its nest with a fat bug for its young. When the mother bird flies off in search of more food, the crow swoops down on the unguarded nest and attacks the babies with its knifelike beak. A cloud of songbirds rises to try to drive the crow away, but it quickly devours the young. Leaving only a pile of feathers and with a raucous cry, the crow

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

## Whole Foods Set To Open Sept. 30

Gourmet Grocery Offers Bread and Tea, But Parking...Not So Much

By Corrie M. Anders

When Whole Foods Market makes its long-anticipated appearance in Noe Valley this month, it will unveil a few surprises.

For one, the store replacing Bell Market on 24th Street will pour kombucha on tap. Kombucha is a popular Chinese tea that purports to have therapeutic value.

But another surprise may be a less pleasant one: Drivers who overstay their 60-minute visit to the store's parking lot are likely to find their cars quickly towed.

Shoppers can expect these and a host of other changes when the gourmet grocery opens its doors Sept. 30, with a "bread-breaking ceremony."

"It's our version of a ribbon-cutting," said Glen Moon, a vice president at the chain, which is known for its organic and preservative-free products.

The guest list has not been finalized, Moon said. But community leaders, city politicians, and company representatives will kick off the event at 9:45 a.m. with

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## Senior Lunch Group Carves Out Another Year

And Gets an Anonymous Gift

By Heather World

It was a stormy summer for seniors whose weekday lunches at the Noe Valley Ministry were threatened by budget cuts, but the clouds lifted in mid-July when an anonymous donor—a Noe Valley couple—came forward to pay for Project Open Hand's hot food deliveries for a month. Then the news got even rosier: the city's Office on Aging announced it would fund the meals through June 2010.

When Julie Wasem, director of senior

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Eureka Street resident Claire Kessler-Bradner is pinpointing her own and others' memorable experiences in Noe Valley on a series of handmade maps. Photo by Pamela Gerard

section of memory and place through a series of "maps" of Noe Valley history based on Kessler-Bradner's own personal memories and those of other neighborhood residents.

"There are so many rich stories under-

lying this space.... And all these experiences come together to make the history of the neighborhood," says the 28-year-old artist, who is pursuing a master's in

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SALES TREND IN NOE VALLEY LEADING THE CHARGE

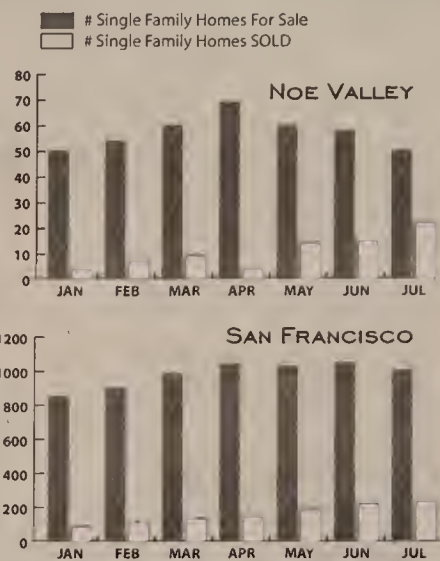
*Did you know....*

The number of single family homes SOLD in Noe Valley nearly DOUBLED when compared to last year in July...

The available INVENTORY of homes for sale in Noe Valley has steadily DECLINED since April of this year...

Noe Valley is out-pacing the city in the ratio of homes sold compared to available inventory...

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4291 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114



This spectacular state-of-the-art light-filled home has four bedrooms, three and a half baths and is truly breathtaking. It was designed in the beautiful Arts and Crafts tradition, inspired by the classic California Shingle style and Frank Lloyd Wright. This gorgeous three story home with expansive 360 degree views was completely re-built by designer Joseph Pugliese ASID, CID, NKBA, the owner of well-known San Francisco based Design Solutions.

The exterior shingled façade in front and back were designed with handsome wood trim, including substantial roof brackets and window framing, pronouncing the home's allegiance to Arts and Crafts. But behind this classic façade are top of the line built-in intercom, lighting, music systems, CAT 5 and DSL. The home also contains many green elements.

This property was built to create a traditional warm feeling with a modern open floor plan on the main level, which makes it perfect for entertaining. There are four fireplaces throughout that are surrounded by tile produced by local artisans.

The large master bedroom suite with

a sizeable seating area is stunning. It has dramatic opposing gables and a fireplace that is surrounded by cast rock-pitched stone. The master bathroom has a radiant heat travertine floor and double walk-in shower and is flooded in natural light.

The gourmet kitchen, overlooking the garden, is fantastic for entertaining. It has elegant cherry columns, cherry wood cabinets and Dakota Red granite countertops. The adjacent dining room area has a hearth at eye level and a walk-out deck that overlooks the lush garden, offering the ultimate indoor/outdoor living area.

The view from the garden looking back at the house is stunning. The landscaped backyard has a beautiful floating redwood deck creating an urban oasis where one can relax in the spa among the palm trees, bamboos, and fountain in river stones.

The lower level boasts a legal private apartment with a family room, full kitchen, large bedroom, wine cellar and a full bathroom. This multi-functional level, with a separate entrance, would be ideal for guests, live-in au pair, additional entertaining space or media room.

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# LETTERS 44¢

## A Flower Pot Solution

*Editor's Note: The original letter was addressed to Supervisor Bevan Dufty.*

Editor:

In light of the clear but unacknowledged increase in tickets (\$100) for partial parking on sidewalks in front of our homes in Noe Valley ["Where the Sidewalk Ends," May 2009 *Voice*], I have a couple of comments.

It is illegal to partially park on the sidewalk in front of our own garages while leaving adequate space for pedestrians, wheelchairs, strollers, etc. However, it is okay for businesses to place planters, tables, and chairs on half of the sidewalk in front of their establishments (with permits).

Here are two solutions:

1. Allow us to place a flower container in our vehicles and get the same permit a business does to allow parking.

2. Allow us to get a parking permit on the same basis as a business.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

K. Bollier

## I'll Hold Your Horn While You...

Editor:

This is an open letter to the annoying woman who leans on her horn whenever another driver stops for pedestrians crossing 24th Street. Please go around the stopped car and run them over yourself. Your excessive honking is scaring the little children and is aggravating to the adults in the neighborhood. Thank you.

Peter Childress

## Our Favorite Letter

Editor:

I recently picked up your June 2009 issue. Your publication is a perfect example of excellence in journalism. It is a pleasure to read—cover to cover! (I spied no typos, misspellings, poor grammar, etc.) You are providing a wonderful service to the community.

I'm a second-generation San Franciscan and have seen the decline in the quality of various San Francisco papers over the last 50 years. I hope to be able to pick up your newspaper when I get into the city again.

P.A.

Santa Rosa, Calif.

## Where to Put Your Food Dollars

Editor:

Re "Whole Paycheck" and their corporate policies: Please don't forget that we have alternatives to financially condoning Whole Foods' activities. Apart from *Rainbow Grocery* and the *Noe Valley Farmers' Market*, here are a few other suggestions that might help you feed your head, heart, body, and soul:

1. *PastaGina*. This is a wonderful Italian-style deli, with fresh pasta, delicious prepared takeout, wines, etc. Owners Gino and Joanie are long, long time Noe Valley residents, over 30 years, and super folks. 741 Diamond Street at 24th.

2. *24th Street Cheese Company*. This shop has a great selection of cheeses and assorted goodies. Charles is another "old-timer" who has been a friend, neighbor, and business owner for decades. 3893 24th Street at Sanchez.

3. *Shufat Market*. This wonderful family-owned store has always been there, at least in my memory. They have recently begun "upgrading" their product mix, and you can find a lot of pleasant surprises among the staples. 3807 24th Street at Church.

4. *Drewes Brothers*. These guys know their meat and fish. It's always a pleasure shopping there. You want it—they'll get it. 1706 Church Street at 29th.

5. *Church Street Produce*. It is astounding how much variety they can pack into such a small space. If they don't have it, you can live without it. 1798 Church at 29th.

Our amazing and unique little neighborhood is rapidly being transformed into a cookie-cutter, third-rate Union Street. We don't have to be slaves to the corporate businesses and mindless crass consumer culture. *Fight back*. Support small, independent, locally owned neighborhood businesses that serve our true needs as well as their bottom line. Keep our dollars circulating locally.

Patrick Monk  
24th Street

## Valencia Street Open During Construction

Editor:

The Valencia Streetscape Improvements Project [launched last month] will benefit all San Franciscans and improve the quality of life for those visiting, living, and working along the Valencia corridor. When completed, it will create an urban space that will be more user-friendly for pedestrians, bikers, and autos alike.

The improvement project has not received much attention outside the neighborhood: It involves widening the sidewalks between 15th and 19th streets on Valencia and is expected to take nine months. Federal funding is already secured, so there should be no impact on our

## Farewell to a Pizza Landmark

By Lee Housekeeper  
Special to the Noe Valley Voice

Noe Valley Pizza founder Tony Vozaites served one last slice of pizza to his old buddy Gus Konstin at a bittersweet goodbye party for the restaurant, attended by some 70 longtime patrons and friends on Sunday, Aug. 9.

Konstin, who owns John's Grill and was Vozaites' first friend in the United States, told the gathering that Vozaites came over from Greece in 1955 "with only a dream and \$30 in his pocket."

"Don't make me so rich, Gus," Vozaites spoke up. "I just had \$10!" Vozaites' first job was waiting tables alongside Konstin at Lambros Restaurant. "Look at us now, Gus. God bless America!"

It has been a long and wonderful life in Noe Valley for Tony Vozaites and his wife Thalia, whom he met and married in 1958. Together, the couple saved Tony's tip money over the years, and in 1965 were able to buy the building at 3898 24th Street which housed Linder's Restaurant.

The couple moved in upstairs and in the mid-1970s opened their Noe Valley Pizza Restaurant. Comfortable leather booths, candlelight, and generous servings of good hearty Italian and Greek fare proved popular with Noe Valley natives and customers from around the city.

Over the next two decades, the Vozaites made several moves and leased the restaurant to several tenants, but in 1997 they came back to reopen Noe Valley Pizza with their son Dennis and his wife Maria. Another dozen years went by, as diners savored pasta and Greek salads on white linen tablecloths and bought



John's Grill founder Gus Konstin (center) helps Tony Vozaites (left) and Dennis Vozaites say goodbye to their Noe Valley Pizza Restaurant on its last day, Aug. 9.

Photo by Judy Davis

tens of thousands of pizzas to go.

"The people in Noe Valley are the nicest in the world," says Tony. "We have made so many good friends, but it is time for us to travel again. We want to go back to Greece for a long vacation."

The Vozaites have accepted a generous offer from a French bakery-café to buy the business. La Boulange plans to move in after remodeling this fall (see July/August 2009 *Voice*).

Tony, Thalia, Dennis, and Maria wish the bakery the very best.

But Tony, who still owns the building and is 74 years young, does not rule out reopening Noe Valley Pizza for a third time when La Boulange's lease runs out in 10 or 20 years.

"Thalia and I can never stay away from all our wonderful friends in Noe Valley for very long."

Lee Housekeeper is a press agent and editor of the news service San Francisco Stories ([www.sanfranciscostories.com](http://www.sanfranciscostories.com)). He has lived in or near Noe Valley since 1984.

**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The *Noe Valley Voice* is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

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city budget. The people who will truly be affected are the owners and customers of the restaurants, shops, galleries, and non-profit organizations in the neighborhood.

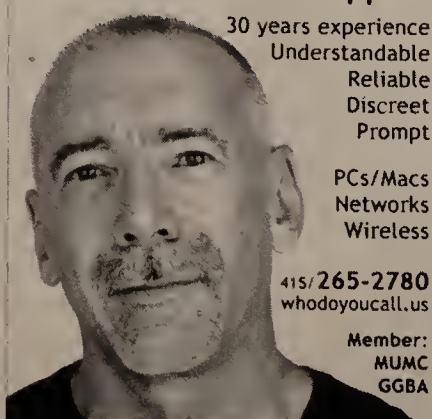
The city's Department of Public Works has attempted to minimize disruptions during construction. Nevertheless, the merchants of Valencia Street need your ongoing support to keep their doors open during, and upon completion of, the project. This is a particularly difficult time for nonprofits and small businesses. In order to continue to enjoy and savor the unique flavor and the variety and vitality that Valencia Street offers, we must unite.

All Valencia Street will be open for business during construction. Please remember to support your local merchants.

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## IN MEMORY

Longtime Noe Valley resident **Mary K. "Micki" Ryan** died suddenly on July 7, 2009, at her home in Noe Valley. Micki was deeply loved by her friends and family and will be greatly missed. She served in Bolivia in the Peace Corp from 2001 to 2003, and previously, in Ecuador, she served with Amigos de las Americas. Micki traveled the world and also had a great love for San Francisco, where she was active in the historic preservation movement. She was a member of San Francisco City Guides and the Victorian Alliance. A memorial service for Micki Ryan was held at the Noe Valley Ministry on Aug. 8, 2009.

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## Troubadour Bruce Sherman, 1943-2009

By James Koehnke

Musician Bruce Sherman passed away on Aug. 9, 2009. Many know him as the kind gentleman who played the accordion and concertina at Phoenix Books on weekend evenings. Others will remember earlier years when Bruce frequented the old Meat Market Coffeehouse, and more recently Martha's, where they would have enjoyed his earnest manner, wry sense of humor, his graciousness and courtesy.

Bruce will be missed by many people in many communities. A fourth-generation San Franciscan whose happiest years were spent in Noe Valley, he was devoted to local history and lore. Bruce loved to regale all comers with tales of the past. His German-speaking grandparents lived at 30th and Church. Bruce said English was a second language in the household in what was then a German neighborhood.

Bruce was born on April 18, 1943. He was proud to share his birthday with the annual commemoration of the Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906. Every year at 5 a.m., Mr. Sherman would be at Lotta's Fountain for the ringing of the bell at the moment of the quake. He laughed that one year he did feel a little tremor—not the Big One, of course.

Though Bruce was born in San Francisco in the neighborhood near Lake Merced, his family moved to San Carlos down the Peninsula when he was 5. His mother joked that Bruce never quite got over leaving San Francisco, and when he eventually found his way back to the city, he came to stay for good.

Bruce served in the Army Signal Corps, stationed in Germany in the early 1960s. He and a fellow soldier there became buskers—spontaneous street musicians—to pass the time. His love of music developed into an avocation which he shared with others for the rest of his life. He was part of a major movement in American roots music in which every source of live or recorded music, from every part of the world,

became part of the American songbag.

As a self-made folk scholar, Bruce collected songs from recordings and from the performances of others for decades. By the end of his life, he had a songster's mastery of many forms of Anglo/Irish/French dance tunes, which even included the archaic English morris dance. A natural teacher, he presented his tunes with introductions and background stories.

His primary vocation was as a craftsman, however. He became skilled at cabinetry and design, using innovative techniques of framing glass and wood. Upon his return to San Francisco, Bruce had become acquainted with the prominent artist/sculptor Ruth Asawa and her husband, architect Albert Lanier, residents of Noe Valley. "They took Bruce under their wing," Bruce's mother explained to this writer.

Through them, Bruce found work at Hoffer Glass Company south of Market. Bruce's window-framing work was sculptural, in that it involved many-faceted shapes, with deceptively simple-looking hexagonal or octagonal features. A culmination of this work was his scale-model of R. Buckminster Fuller's geodesic dome. Bruce met Fuller at Ruth Asawa's, and the meeting was a high point of his life.



There is lasting evidence of Bruce Sherman's personal history, at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. There, one will find his name on a plaque at the permanent exhibit of Ruth Asawa's sculpture, an acknowledgment of his contribution to one of her pieces. A rare honor, he told his friends—and yet, in his own characteristic way, a quiet understatement of his own unique talent.

Bruce Sherman's deepest interest seemed to be in the history of San Francisco. He was devoted to its many causes, and was an avid appreciator of its technical glories—especially the cable cars and ferry lines, the steam-driven railroads, and the city's unique maritime history. He had a special expertise in San Francisco maps, going



Bruce Sherman was a collector of folk songs and history that he often shared with listeners at Phoenix Books and Martha's Coffee.

back to the earliest days. Accurate maps were a key to the world of the city in every era, he said, and he appreciated them as a true art form.

Most recently Bruce devoted his time to perfecting his musical craft. He performed on button accordion and concertina weekly at the Hyde Street Pier, aboard the historic ship Balclutha, and played a variety of instruments in a variety of ensembles, sometimes at the Cafe Trieste in North Beach, or in sessions at other cafes around the city, and finally at Phoenix Books where he seemed most at home. The unexpected pleasure of live music, without fuss (or amplification), was Bruce's ideal. People responded with a smile, assuming that the next time they'd stop by, he'd be there.

Bruce Sherman would always end the evening with this lovely Irish tune:

### The Parting Glass

*O, all the money e'er I had,  
I spent it in good company.  
And all the harm that e'er I've done,  
Alas it was to none but me.  
And all I've done for want of wit  
To mem'ry now I can't recall;  
So fill to me the parting glass,  
Good night and joy be with you all.  
O, all the comrades e'er I had,  
They're sorry for my going away.  
And all the sweethearts e'er I had,  
They'd wished me one more day to stay.  
But since it falls unto my lot,  
That I should rise and you should not,  
I gently rise and softly call,  
Good night and joy be with you all.*

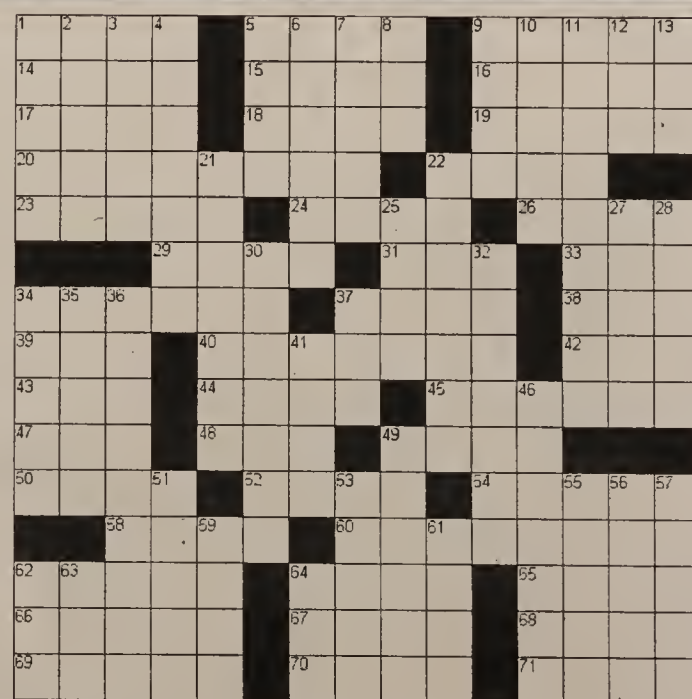
A memorial will be held for Bruce Sherman at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sept. 13, 2009, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.

## CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### Trust Buster

#### ACROSS

1. 13th or 15th of the month
5. Do art on glass, say
9. Fattened fowl
14. Paris papa
15. Did the backstroke
16. Kate's TV roomie
17. New York theater award
18. Dynamic lead-in
19. Bank's storage room
20. Avoid Noe Valley historian Yenne?
22. Period in office
23. Step in a flight
24. Election selection
26. Assigner of PGs
29. "Just do it" sloganer
31. Soldier in gray
33. It precedes Aug.
34. Highest point in an orbit
37. Absolutely the best
38. Flurry of activity
39. Burst seam
40. Do advance work for ex-V.P. (and sometime S.F. resident) Gore?
42. Espionage grp.
43. Program file extension
44. Yearn (for)
45. Rubbernecked
47. India Clay Oven bread
48. Brynner of "The Magnificent Seven"
49. Crumbly Greek cheese
50. Prepares for battle
52. Yesterday, in the Yucatan
54. "\_\_\_ has left the building."
58. Computer that might connect to 1-Downs
60. Hire State Senator Leno?
62. Hindu "wonder

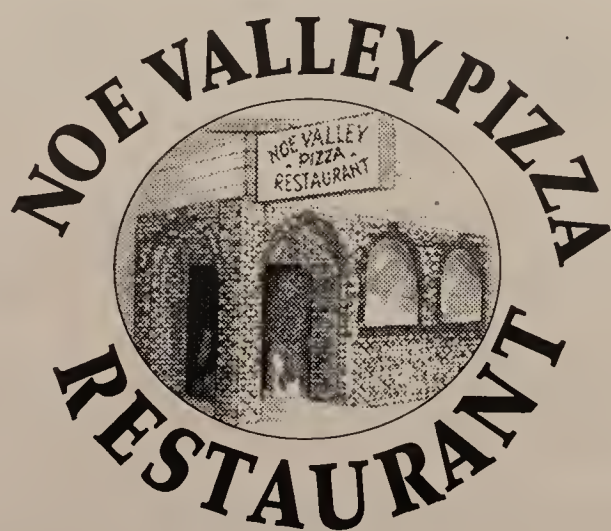


- worker"
64. Coin depicting Franklin D. Roosevelt
  65. Jai \_\_\_
  66. Forewarn
  67. Couple in a gossip column
  68. Learning system
  69. Far from safe
  70. Cruel Roman emperor
  71. "\_\_\_ bien!"
- #### DOWN
1. MP3 players
  2. First showing
  3. "All My Children" character
  4. In search of
  5. Morales of "NYPD Blue"
  6. Jury complement
  7. Gambling mecca Monte \_\_\_
  8. Kaiser Permanente, for one
  9. Give (in)
  10. Clock/radio feature

11. Fatten up co-founder Tipple of the Noe Valley Voice?
12. Apply WD-40 to
13. After expenses
21. For just a moment
22. Almost adult
25. Gait between walk and canter
27. WWII hero Murphy
28. Take \_\_\_ off (sit down)
30. "On the Road" writer
32. Like some birthday cards
34. Warriors' Oracle \_\_\_
35. Emeryville film studio
36. Unlock a 24th Street shoe-repair business?
37. "Brokeback Mountain" director Lee
41. Part of SRO
46. Sam's Club parent company
49. Franklin or Gerry, in

- 1787
51. Conceited smile
53. High society
55. Bravery
56. Boiling mad
57. Heavens
59. Culturally pretentious
61. "Finding \_\_\_" (35-Down title)
62. Distant
63. 2001 Will Smith biopic
64. Clamor

Solution on Page 45



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## Pendulum Swings Toward Developer in 'Blue Church' Dispute

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

related to its effort to stay in the building, located at 1596 Church Street at the corner of 28th Street.

James Branch, head of Oakland-based J. Branch Developments, Inc., said he expected a Superior Court judge in September to authorize an eviction and that he planned to soon start demolition of the one-time movie theater.

However, church attorney Craig Martin remained resolute. "I don't agree we're out of options," he countered. "We plan to fight whatever they do." (The church also has a separate fraud suit against the development firm that is unconnected to the eviction fight.)

Still, the end appears to be drawing closer for the church, and for a number of poor people who use the facility as a temporary shelter.

"I'm saddened for all the people that got dragged into this...people who have stayed, not having anywhere to go," Branch said. He said 15 to 20 people live



A contemporary-style condominium complex, as depicted in this artist's rendering, has been proposed to replace the building at Church and 28th streets that now houses the Church of San Francisco, also known as the "Blue Church." The development would include six condos, ground-floor commercial space, and residential parking. *Rendering courtesy of Mimetic Systems, Inc.*

at the church with the barest of necessities.

"That's always been a concern for us because the facility was never designed for people to reside there—with no kitchen, no shower, no bedrooms," he said.

Bell, a social activist pastor who in the past has offered a passionate defense of the activities at his non-denominational church, referred all questions to Martin, the attorney.

The church has been surrounded by controversy from the time Bell became its spiritual leader in 1996. He and City Hall tangled over a food giveaway program, and the facility has been a continuous irritant to some nearby residents and store owners, who complain of overcrowded and unkempt conditions.

"Neighbors near the Blue Church have

expressed their desire to see something else done with that property," noted Vicki Rosen, president of Upper Noe Neighbors, a residents organization.

Rosen said she personally did not have any issues with the church, outside of concern for the welfare of folks using the building as a shelter.

"I feel bad for some of the people who've been living at the church for a long time, for a number of years," she said. "They're going to be in a difficult situation, I expect. That's the only thing that bothers me."

Branch said his firm would continue with the original construction plan the city approved in September 2006. The \$2.3 million project called for three two-bedroom flats, three two-bedroom town-

houses, ground-floor retail space, and a nine-space parking garage. Blue would remain the dominant color in the contemporary-style building.

"The entire team has been activated, and everyone is pushing towards a date when we can do the demolition," he said.

Initially, the now dissolved partnership between Branch and Bell seemed like a marriage made in heaven to develop the building, which first opened in 1916 as the Searchlight Theater and converted in 1965 to a church named Holiness Temple in Christ.

The May 2006 deal, which also won plaudits from local residents and Church Street merchants, represented a generous titling for the church, which was to receive 40 percent of any profits from condo sales.

The developer and the church had agreed to a one-year lease—time enough for the company to wend through the building permit process and for the church to relocate. The lease terminated in October 2007. But the church refused to vacate the premises.

When the developer filed an eviction lawsuit, the church argued in its defense that Branch's firm "acquired title to the property through fraud," and a Superior Court jury agreed in a February 2008 verdict.

However, the judges in the appellate division of the Superior Court ruled that the church failed to show "essential evidence" of fraud. Their June 19 opinion reversed the jury decision.

The appeals panel also refused the church's request to rehear the issue, nor to grant the church permission to file a petition with the state Court of Appeals. The church went to the state appeals court anyway, only to get turned down Aug. 12, setting the stage for the pending eviction order.

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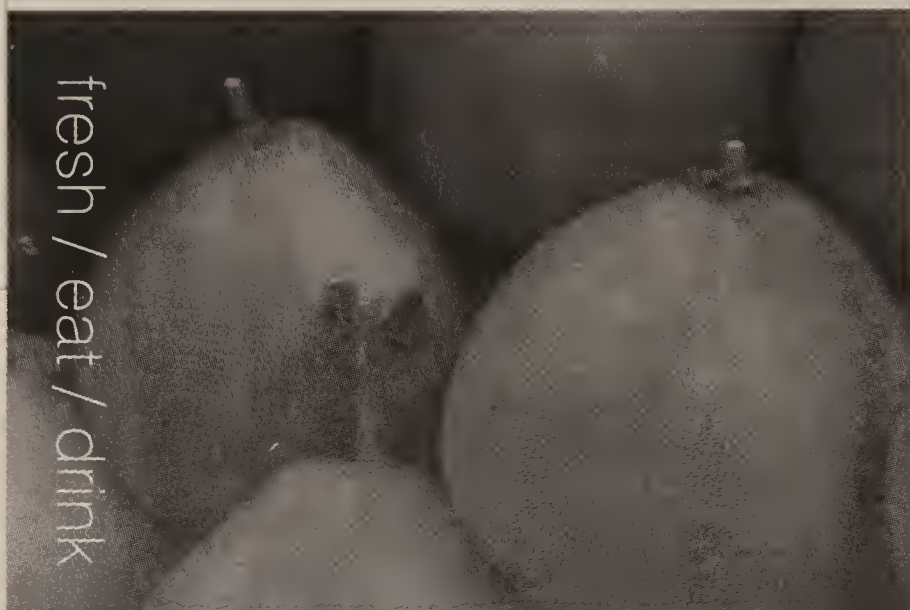
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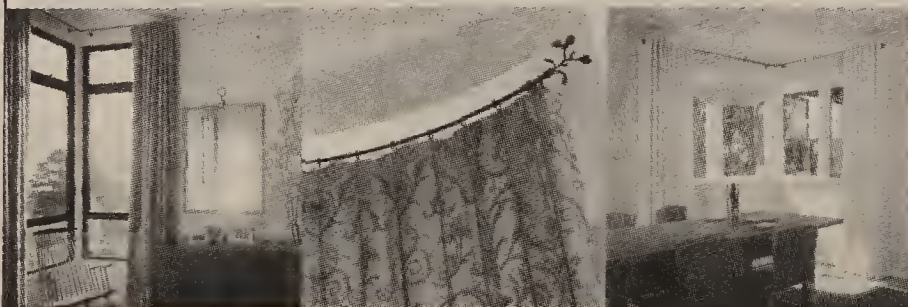
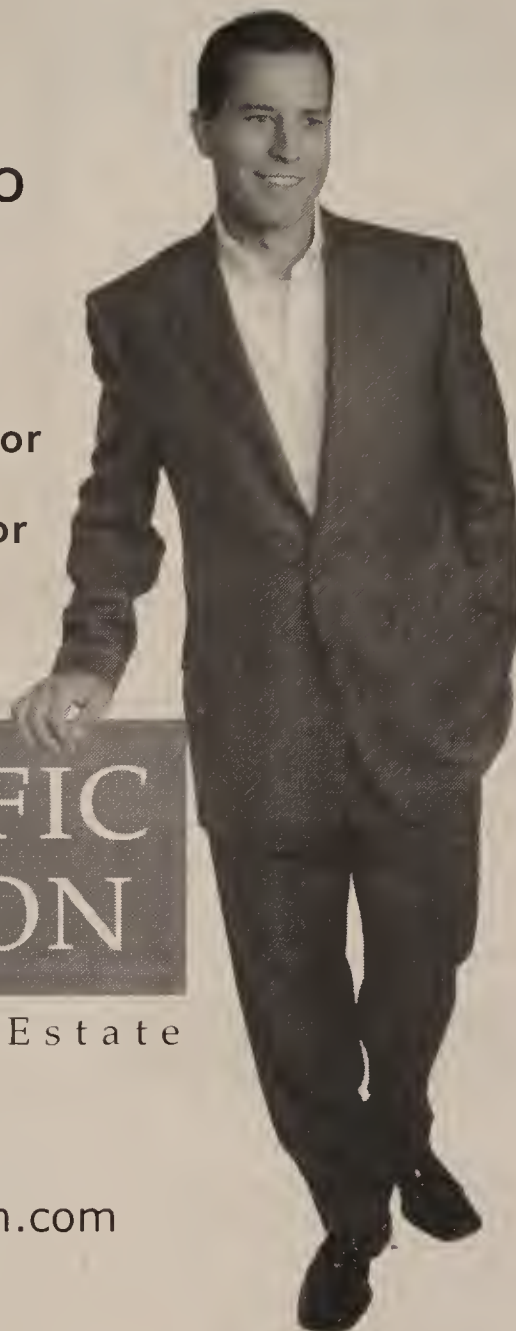
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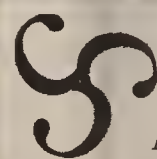
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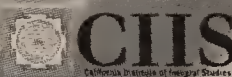
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## Whole Foods Team Ready to Play

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thank-yous and welcome speeches. And at 10 a.m., shoppers will get their first opportunity to roam the aisles.

The unwrapping of the remodeled store at 3950 24th Street has been eagerly awaited since mid-February, when Bell, the only full-size grocery in "Downtown Noe Valley," shut its doors after more than four decades on the block.

"Everybody misses having a full-service grocery store within walking distance," said Debra Niemann, executive director of the Noe Valley Association. "Not only the community but the merchants want it to open up, too. The merchants need the foot traffic."

The Noe Valley Whole Foods will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### A Manager with Experience

Whole Foods veteran Angela Lorenzen will be "team leader"—the equivalent of store manager—for the 24th Street store. Lorenzen joined the Austin, Texas-based grocery in 2000 as a "team member," and moved up the corporate ladder while working at five Whole Foods stores in the Bay Area.

Like Whole Foods' other locations, the Noe Valley store will feature a full line of vitamins and natural cosmetics, a large produce section, a bakery, a wide selection of wines and cheeses, chef-prepared foods to take out, and a fishmonger and butcher.

"The meats will be cut to order," said Lorenzen. "There's not going to be a bunch of stuff in styrofoam wrapped in saran wrap on a shelf."

Because the store is less than half the size of Whole Foods' typical stores, it will not have a sit-down café or clothing for sale.

Lorenzen said the store would offer several other treats to compensate, but she refused to disclose them—all except the kombucha—before the grand opening.

However, she gave fair warning to drivers who might be tempted to use the parking lot to do errands on 24th Street.



Whole Foods is hoping customers will walk, bike, or take Muni to its new store, scheduled to open Sept. 30. Drivers should get the hint: the parking lot has space for just 18 cars.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

offenders at the lot, which has space for just 18 vehicles.

"Unfortunately, we will be towing cars," she said.

Lorenzen encouraged customers in the traffic-clogged corridor to walk, take public transportation, or use other alternatives to driving. Most store employees plan to either ride their bicycles or use Muni, she said, "so we won't be parking in the lot either."

### End of Mini-Market, Shuttle

The advent of Whole Foods ends a number of stopgap measures residents and merchants undertook to make up for the seven months the community has been without a traditional large grocery.

A mini farmers market that sold goods on Tuesdays in the grocery's parking lot shut down Aug. 25 because Whole Foods needed the space for the final construction push. The operation started last May.

"It was really a great mini-market," said Leslie Crawford, one of the organizers. "It became increasingly popular as more people learned about it. I know that customers were happy to get produce during the week, and I'm hoping it helped the merchants."

The original Noe Valley Farmers' Mar-

etables, eggs, and other products on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry's parking lot, on 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets.

And the weekly Tuesday shuttle that Whole Foods ran to the retailer's Potrero Hill store will no longer be needed after Sept. 22, its last day of operation. The free van service, which the community requested when Bell closed, has been ferrying residents to the Whole Foods on Rhode Island Street since March.

Whole Foods currently has no plans to offer home delivery or free shuttle service within the neighborhood to assist seniors or disabled residents.

"Maybe down the road," said Lorenzen. "We're focused on opening and making sure we take care of our cus-

tomers...to first make sure our regular, everyday business is successful before we start adding elements."

### A Few Bell Employees Hired

Former Bell shoppers will see a few familiar faces at the new store. Lorenzen noted that all Bell employees had been invited to interview for positions with Whole Foods.

"Some were asked to join our team, and some declined and a few accepted," said Lorenzen. She wouldn't identify the workers joining Whole Foods because they were still going through the hiring process.

The Sept. 30 launch will give Whole Foods four operations in San Francisco, including Potrero Hill, Pacific Heights, and the South of Market area. At one time, company executives expected the 24th Street site would not open until much later this fall.

"We accelerated our effort because we knew the community was eager to get the store open," Moon said. "We went over and above [with] a really tight schedule with no fluff."

The renovations, which Moon said cost \$4 million, involved gutting the 18,000-square-foot Bell Market structure. The company upgraded bathrooms, designed the space to accommodate disabled shoppers, and utilized environmentally friendly construction products and equipment.

"I have to commend them," Niemann said. "They started in March or April and they're finishing now. That's pretty impressive." ■



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## Small Leaves Lapsits To New Generations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and toddles over to Small, staring up into her face as she continues to sing. "I see you, I see you."

The little girl, like two generations of Noe Valley children, is fascinated. But this occasion may be the last time she gets to see the lady with the sweet voice and wonderful picture books.

Small, who has been the children's librarian at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street since 1990, is retiring Sept. 29.

"I have loved being a children's librarian, and particularly working in Noe Valley, but...I [now] want to give myself more space for other things."

Small has been a librarian for 40 years, and she has spent more time in her current position than anywhere else. From 2003 to 2006, Small was the acting manager of the Noe Valley Branch, as well as the children's librarian. She lives on the outskirts of Glen Park and enjoyed walking to work many days.

"I'm going to miss interacting with the wonderful patrons at this library," Small says. "And seeing children engaged in the stories. When that's happening, I know I'm really going to miss this job. I will also miss going for a walk in this neighborhood and seeing people I know from this job."

Reading to children is something that Small has been doing for longer than her 19 years at the Noe Valley Branch—she has two sons, who are now 24 and 27.

"I'm ready to retire, but I'm not ready to give up kids and books," says Small in her gentle voice, looking out wistfully at the crowd as they run to the table to pick up books, or pack up their strollers and



Toddler Tales won't be the same without Children's Librarian Carol Small, who is retiring to pursue other activities, such as performing with the group Sound Wave. To bid her goodbye, come to a party at the library on Friday, Sept. 25, at 6:30 p.m. Photo by Pamela Gerard

head out the door.

She hopes to be able to find volunteer work at a school, to continue her work with children and books. "I want more free time to indulge my hobbies—reading and singing," says Small, who sings with the San Francisco Sound Wave chorus.

Small's replacement has not been named yet, and she worries that it may be a while before that happens, because of city budget cuts. Still, she is sure the lap-

sits and story hour will continue at the Noe Valley Library, with different librarians filling in at different times, until a new children's librarian is named. Small will lead the toddler tales and family story time through September (Tuesdays, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.).

A new librarian better be selected soon, since Noe Valley children are counting on coming in to hear their favorite stories. Small notes there are certain books that

Noe Valley kids just can't resist. What are they? The *Magic Tree House* and *Henry and Mudge* series, and Lemony Snicket's *Series of Unfortunate Events*.

A going-away party for Small will be held at the library, 451 Jersey Street, on Friday, Sept. 25, starting at 6:30 p.m. The library invites all who would like to attend, and asks that people bring food to share. Please RSVP to Noe Valley Branch Manager Alice McCloud at 355-2811. ■

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## A Gourmet Guide With Gut Appeal

Food Writer Is on the Right Tract

By Olivia Boler

There's a new book on the shelves of stores that's turning heads with its cover depiction of a unisex restroom sign. The male figure in the graphic has a chef's hat, and the female a spatula, begging the question: Is it a cookbook, a humor book, or a health book? (Answer: All three.) And then there's the title, which should win a prize for being the catchiest of the year: *The Un-Constipated Gourmet: Secrets to a Moveable Feast* (Sourcebooks, July 2009).

But the book's main attraction, believes author Danielle Svetcov, is its practicality: the guide has 125 recipes—including four *emergency* ones—created especially for “the regularity challenged.”

Svetcov, a 36-year-old Douglass Street resident, has often considered herself in that category. She admits to being aware of her proximity to a bathroom at all times.

“The book is my answer to a lifelong



Noe Valley resident Danielle Svetcov has produced a cookbook “for food lovers who want to be regular” while still enjoying tasty meals. Her *Un-Constipated Gourmet* has sections devoted to soups, salads, snacks, entrees, and desserts, as well as a chapter on “emergency” recipes.

question: how do we keep our guts functioning in a sound, regular way, if they tend to misbehave and we don't want to use drugs, sprinkle Metamucil on top of our salmon fillet, and drink 50 gallons of water a day?”

To find out, Svetcov began researching the history of food and how it affects one's gastrointestinal tract. She also started gathering recipes from around the world—from the U.S. to Asia to Africa. She emailed friends, and friends of friends, asking them to divulge their favorite dishes for “uncorking” the digestive system.

Once she determined the tastiest, she had the book she always wanted: *The Un-Constipated Gourmet*.

Svetcov tested all the recipes herself, and her foodie background certainly helped. For years she had been a freelance journalist, with restaurant reviewing a specialty. Her articles appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *New York Times*, *Real Simple*, and *Forbes*, and in the '90s, she wrote restaurant reviews for the website Sidewalk.com (which morphed into Citysearch.com).

In 1998, she attended a four-month “culinary camp” at Boston University. Each week, a different celebrity chef, including Julia Childs and Jacques Pepin, would impart their wisdom to the campers, many of whom aspired to work in commercial kitchens.

“It gave me incredible knife skills,” recalls Svetcov. “And you wouldn't believe the amount of salt and butter they used.”

In the end, though, she decided that cooking in a restaurant was not for her. She likens it to “coal-mining indoors. I don't like to move that fast.”

For the past seven years, she has been working as an agent at the Levine Greenberg Literary Agency—when not experimenting in her home kitchen.

In her book, fiber is the big hero, of course, and the more unrefined the better.



But the recipe ingredients are not meant to be “scary,” Svetcov says. “I didn't want recipes that push the book into the world of the sandy grains and groats you find in the dark bins of Rainbow Grocery.”

In trying out the recipes on her husband and 20-month-old daughter, Svetcov discovered some creative food substitutions. “Everything in the book is mainstream, but reminds people of what works. So, for example, when you're putting together dinner, instead of pasta with tomatoes, have soba noodles with grains. Swap in Swiss chard for lettuce. Or if you're having a hamburger, eat it with polenta instead of that white roll. Instead of a white flour and sugar muffin, make it with not just bran flakes, but something interesting like sweet potatoes.”

Taste is important to Svetcov, too. You'll find mouth-watering dishes like hot-corn papaya salsa, butternut squash soup, chard with miso and sesame, and poached pears with caramel. Recipes are

grouped in sections, such as soups, salads, entrees, desserts, and the intriguingly labeled “special elixirs.”

The book also includes some helpful advice (“Eat slower, and chew more”) and a list of “key foods” one can usually count on for action. The list has the familiar prunes and cabbage, but a few surprises, like hot water, chocolate, and “booze.”

There's also a list called “The Ten Plagues of the Gut,” and it's no wonder it is topped with low-fiber foods like bagels, doughnuts, and white rice. The book doesn't rule out these foods, but warns that “if you are prone to stuck guts, they will almost certainly cause you trouble. Imagine a snake swallowing a boulder, and you get the idea.”

Wherever she can, Svetcov sprinkles in a little humor—to make the sometimes awkward topic of constipation easy to digest.

“Most of the books out there addressing this issue were grave, serious tomes. I thought some humor was required, as well as taking an approach through the food, rather than through the medicine.”

If you'd like to chat with Danielle Svetcov about fiber, or just about food, she'll have a booth at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon (24th and Vicksburg). At the event, Cover to Cover will provide copies of *The Un-Constipated Gourmet* for sale (\$15.99).



### CORN CHOWDER

Here's a recipe from Danielle Svetcov's cookbook, *The Un-Constipated Gourmet: Secrets to a Moveable Feast* (Sourcebooks, July 2009). For more information, check out Svetcov's blog: [www.theunconstipatedgourmet.com](http://www.theunconstipatedgourmet.com).

1 tablespoon butter  
4 ounces of bacon or salt pork or ham, chopped roughly  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
1/3 cup chopped carrot  
1/3 cup chopped celery  
2-1/2 cups chicken broth  
1-1/2 cup diced potato  
1 bay leaf  
1 cup whole milk  
3 ears sweet corn, kernels removed, cobs discarded  
1/2 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves  
Salt and cayenne pepper to taste

Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the bacon, salt pork, or ham. After a few minutes, the fat will start to pool. Turn off heat and pour out half the fat (into a compost bucket).

Return to medium heat and add the onion, carrot, and celery. Sauté for 4 minutes. Add the broth, potatoes, and bay leaf. Bring to a boil, cover, and turn heat to a simmer. When the potatoes are soft (about 15 minutes), add corn. Simmer another 2 minutes. Stir in milk and reheat thoroughly, but do not boil. Add salt and cayenne, to taste. Add thyme. Remove bay leaf.

For a smoother consistency, this soup can be pureed (right before serving) with an immersion blender.

Serves 4 as a main dish or 6 as a starter.

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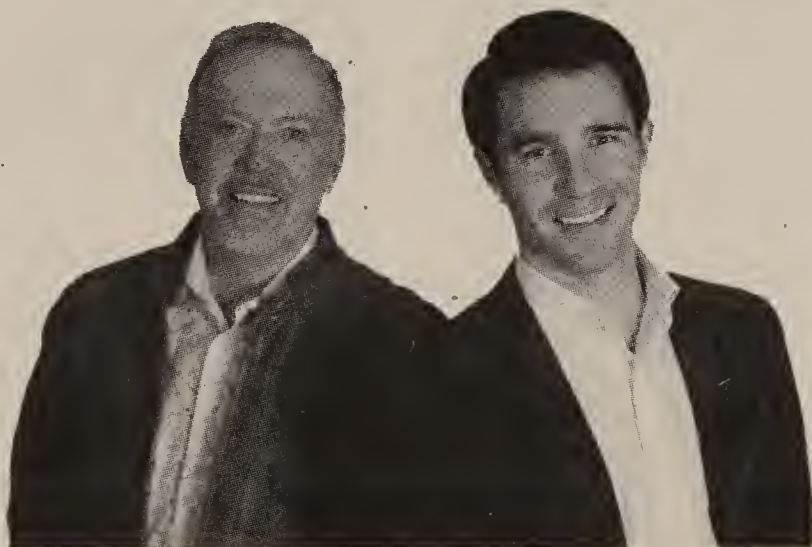
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## Anonymous Donor Heartens Seniors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

services for Project Open Hand, called to tell the seniors about the reprieve, Noe Valley site coordinator Wendy Cohen couldn't believe her ears.

"We'd been all set to close, so I wasn't sure I'd heard her right. 'Did you say we're saved? Saved for the whole year?'" Cohen said, before excitedly informing the over-60 crowd sitting down for lunch at 1021 Sanchez Street.

Project Open Hand, which warned the Noe Valley Senior Center of the impending closure in the spring, had already come to the site's rescue once this year (see "Senior Lunch Saved for a Month," July/August 2009 *Voice*). The nonprofit offered to pay for July's lunches out of its own pocket, hoping the gesture would buy time for the mayor or Board of Supervisors to shift money back into the senior nutrition program.

As for the Office on Aging decision, Cohen credits articles in the *Noe Valley Voice* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Examiner* with spurring neighbors to call Supervisor Bevan Dufty and lobby for the lunches. Jim Illig, Project Open Hand's government relations director, said Dufty personally approached the head of the Office on Aging and asked her to restore funding to the Noe Valley site.

Though the fate of three other sites slated for closure is still unknown, Noe Valley will remain open for another year, he said.

"Without people putting the time in to save this, this wouldn't have happened," Illig said. "We're grateful."

Cohen, who has managed the Noe Valley site for more than 10 years, said her

clients' reaction to the events of the summer was just what you'd expect. "They were thrilled," she said, especially with the largesse shown by the Noe Valley couple. The seniors begged to know the donors' identity, but settled for sending them an effusive thank-you card through her, Cohen said.

The seniors, too, were grateful for the community's concern and calls to supervisors, Cohen said. Many elders had rearranged their schedules in preparation for the closure. One woman even postponed doctor appointments because she figured she would have plenty of time for those after the center closed.

"It was tough to live that way," Cohen said.

Now that funding has been restored, Cohen and the two dozen diners will do their best to get more people to come to lunch, which is served at 12:30 p.m. for a suggested donation of \$2. They plan to hang flyers in nearby libraries and pass them out at the Saturday farmers market on 24th Street.

"I'm hoping more seniors will come," Cohen said. "I know they're out there." ■

*Seniors who would like to reserve a seat for lunch are asked to call the Noe Valley Senior Center, 648-1030, 24 hours ahead of time, so Open Hand can order enough meals. The senior center's hours at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street, are noon to 2 p.m. For additional information, visit [www.openhand.org](http://www.openhand.org) or call 447-2300.*



One way to meet a crow face to face is to visit the Randall Museum in nearby Corona Heights Park. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the museum has a live crow, raven, and magpie exhibit. The *Voice* thanks animal care assistant Dominik Mosur for his aid and sacrifice for our novice bird photographer.

Photo by Pamela Gerord

## Don't Blame Crows, It's Their Nature

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

returns to its treetop aerie and looks for its next meal.

This scene played out numerous times this summer, leading some local residents to wonder: Has a band of thuggish crows invaded Noe Valley?

Well, sort of, say the experts. But that's nothing unusual.

Crows—and the pitiful evidence of their crimes—are now a common sight in cities from Seattle to San Diego. At home in urban parks and back yards, they find plentiful food, abundant roosting areas, and few natural enemies. The number of crows and ravens sighted in San Francisco and Oakland in the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird count jumped 74 percent to 756 in the past decade, while the San Diego County towns of Oceanside and Escondido recorded fourfold increases between 1995 and 2005.

Opportunistic omnivores, crows scavenge grain and roadkill, and prey on insects, rabbits, raccoons, frogs, and snakes, as well as small birds and eggs. With their keen intelligence and superior size—the typical wingspan is 40 inches—crows are often able to overcome the diversionary tactics and "mobbing" de-

fenses of smaller birds. It's not for nothing that a flock of these ink-black birds is called "a murder of crows."

And as dismaying as it is to see songbirds and other creatures meet untimely ends, it is nature's way.

"Most baby birds never make it out of the nest, baby crows included, because of predation, disease, competition for food, bad luck, etc.," says John Matzluff, an authority on corvids (ravens, crows, magpies, and jays) at the University of Washington and the co-author of *In the Company of Crows*.

"This is nature, where what seems cruel is just the way it works," he continues. "Predators need to eat, which is a bummer if you are prey."

However, says Matzluff, songbirds may soon get a reprieve. West Nile virus has hit crows hard, killing up to 40 percent of the population in some areas. It could be years before their numbers rebound and the circle of life takes a new turn.

In the meantime, we should keep "some wildness in our yards," suggests Jack Dumbacher, curator and chair of the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences. He notes that cutting grass, trimming hedges, and pruning trees make it difficult for small birds to hide their nests from voracious predators.

"And," he adds, "we can keep our cats indoors." ■

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Photo of Paula, canine customer Boris, and Celia by Pamela Gerard

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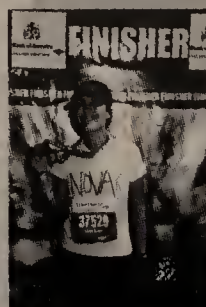
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## Memories Wanted, Says Local Artist

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fine arts.

Kessler-Bradner lived on 21st Street near Douglass until she was 14, spent the next dozen or so years in other neighborhoods and cities, and then replanted roots in Noe Valley last summer.

When she was moving into her apartment, her mother—artist and Richmond District resident Kay Bradner—stopped by to help. Bradner immediately recognized the Eureka Street house as the same one that their landlord from so many years ago, a man Kessler-Bradner remembers fondly, had grown up in.

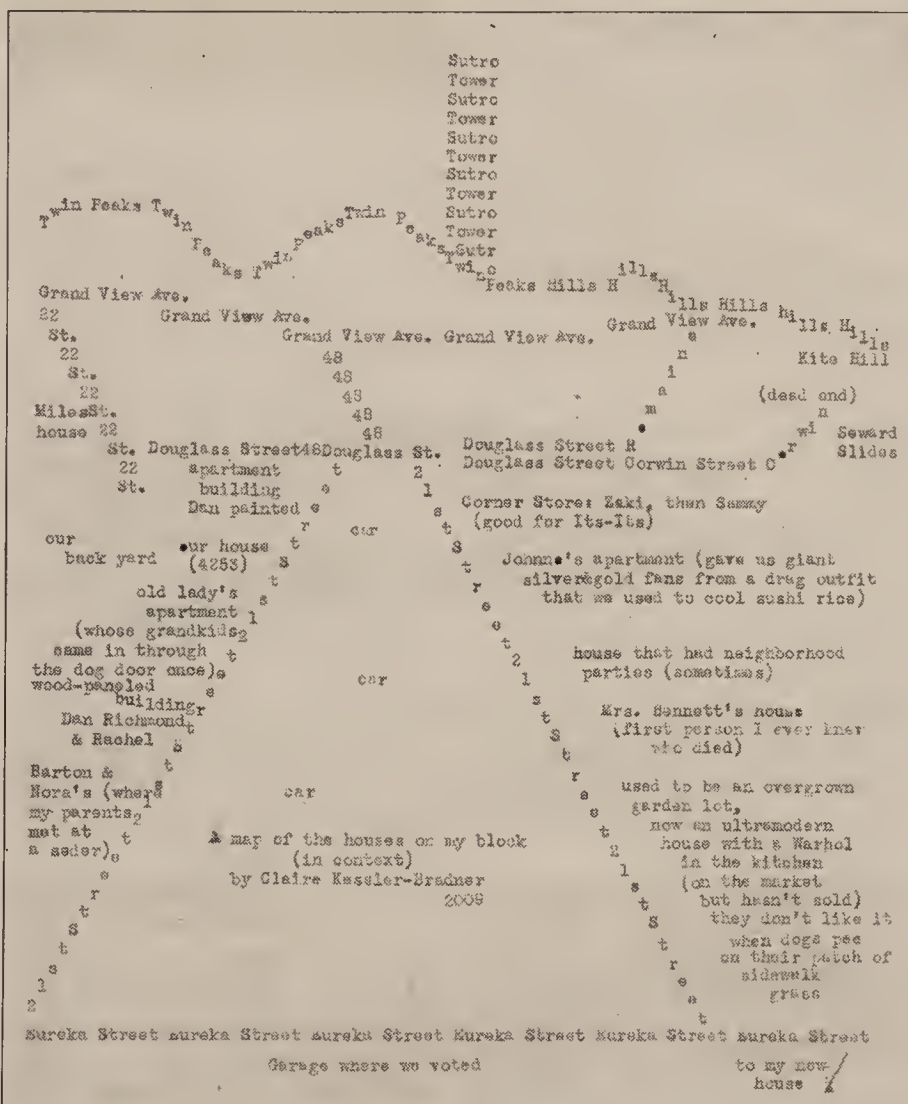
“That got me thinking about oral history. It was only through her memory that we knew that,” says Kessler-Bradner.

The project, begun last spring, uses woodcut-printed “memory maps,” each marked with red dots and phrases corresponding to people, places, and happenings in Noe Valley. Other materials, such as handbound books and typeface drawings of floor plans and yard layouts created on an old Royal typewriter, accompany the work.

Each map also has a theme. One, entitled “Places Gone,” details neighborhood spots from Kessler-Bradner’s childhood that no longer exist, such as a “ghost house” that has been replaced by a sleek, modern residence. Another map, “Visceral Neighborhood,” pinpoints sensory memories, such as the smell of the chim-



Participants in Claire Kessler-Bradner's Noe Valley Project are invited to record neighborhood memories on paper and then flag their locations on a map. Photo by Pamela Gerard



Another part of the project involves yard layouts pecked out on a Royal typewriter. This one shows Claire Kessler-Bradner's “memory map” of the block of 21st Street she grew up on.

ney smoke that always seems to be detectable in the air up and down one Noe Valley block.

On another map, devoted to other people's memories rather than Kessler-Bradner's own, tiny numbered flags pepper street corners, hilltops, and intersections. Each flag corresponds to a page in a palm-sized book, where onlookers are invited to record brief memories associated with a place in Noe Valley and then plant a matching flag on the map.

“There's such an interesting combination of what people choose to write about,” she says as she flips through the book's pages.

Some memories are just a few words. Others ramble. Some are sweet, innocent, and warm. Others are not.

*Public sex, boldly declares flag 71. My old apartment where I lived until my heart wasn't broken anymore, reads flag number 15. Number 21 announces an anonymous writer's first pot-smoking experience atop Diamond Heights. Flag 30 describes the everyday in poetic terms, saying, From here I run down the hill, the wind pushes against me and the city opens up below to the right in topographical real time.*

In the coming months, Kessler-Bradner will be adding more memories to the

maps and recording oral histories through interviews with local residents. In exchange for their memories, participants will receive prints from the project.

When she graduates next May, the piece will include a wall-sized woodcut mural, audio recordings, and other multimedia elements. It will be publicly displayed as an installation at CCA's San Francisco campus on Eighth Street. Maybe by then, she'll have an answer to a question that lies at the heart of the project.

“What is it that makes us a community, even though we don't know each other?” she muses.

Selections from the *Noe Valley Project* will be included in Southern Exposure's “Home Is Something I Carry with Me,” an exhibition on view Sept. 4 to 6 in three Mission District homes. Visit <http://soex.org> for more information.

Claire Kessler-Bradner is seeking local residents willing to share their neighborhood memories. She invites individuals, families, and groups to contact her at [noevalleyproject@gmail.com](mailto:noevalleyproject@gmail.com).



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## The Cost of Living in Noe

### A Run on Homes in June and July

By Corrie M. Anders

Homebuyers shook off their economic worries over the summer and went on one of the biggest Noe Valley shopping sprees in years.

The house hunters, who often engaged in bidding wars, purchased 37 single-family residences in the neighborhood during June and July, according to monthly sales data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate. (Zephyr's stats cover properties from 22nd to 30th streets, and Guerrero to Grand View.)

The two-month total was the highest since 2005, when 39 homes changed hands during the same period. It also was the second highest tally in 10 years.

The high volume was in sharp contrast to that of a year earlier. Last summer, as the housing market was showing signs of stress, a total of 19 detached homes changed hands during June and July. The near-collapse of the banking system a few months later helped knock sales into single digits during the winter and spring.

Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager, said deflated home prices, as well as consumer sentiment that the economy might be starting to recover,

stimulated buying this spring. In addition, people were concerned that prices and mortgage rates might rise again, "so we were seeing buyers get off the fence and say, 'Hey, it's time that I do something about this.'"

For the record, the average price for a detached home in July, when 22 were sold, was \$1,196,000. That was 35 percent below the average sales price of \$1,847,000 one year earlier, when there were 12 transactions. But the story was different for June sales. Fifteen detached homes closed escrow at an average price of \$1,499,000 in June. That number was nearly 21 percent higher than the average for last June's seven sales: \$1,243,000.

During the summer rebound, buyers on average paid the seller's asking price, or close to it. But some sellers got even more than they asked for, due to what Kostick said were "multiple offers on a fair number of properties."

Bidding wars broke out in more than a quarter of the transactions, he said, though nothing like the rampant overbidding that once flummoxed buyers and delighted sellers in 2005.

"I don't want to give the impression it's anything like it was three to five years ago," Kostick said, but "it's pretty incredible, considering what the marketplace has been like."

In June 2009, the most expensive home sold at the asking price of \$2,850,000 and closed escrow in one day. The four-bedroom, 3.5-bath home sits in the 3900 block of 25th Street, between Church and Sanchez streets.

Another 25th Street home was the costliest in July. The four-bedroom, 3.5-bath property was on the market for six days and sold for \$2,610,000, slightly more than the \$2,599,000 asking price. It is located in the 4200 block of 25th Street, between Castro and Diamond streets.

But the low end of the market also performed well—from a buyer's perspective. "There are some prices out there that would have knocked your socks off three months ago," Kostick said.

The lowest-tagged detached home sold in July for \$675,000, compared to \$975,000 last July and \$1,037,000 in July two years ago.

Buyers trying to break into Noe Valley had an equally good shot in June, when the least expensive home sold for \$700,000. In June of 2008, the cheapest house went for \$850,000, while the price a year earlier was \$900,000.

Condominiums offered the best opportunity to purchase in Noe Valley. The least expensive condo in July cost \$349,000, compared to \$563,000 last July and \$457,000 in July 2007.

Kostick said a number of low-end prices were the result of financially distressed owners "selling because they had to sell, and not because they chose to sell."

"We've had an increase in the number of bank-owned or foreclosure properties on the market," he said, "but it's not a large percentage of the total inventory."

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
July 2009	22	\$675,000	\$2,610,000	\$1,196,411	53	100%
June 2009	15	\$700,000	\$2,850,000	\$1,498,567	65	99%
May 2009	14	\$750,000	\$2,895,000	\$1,172,536	53	98%
July 2008	12	\$975,000	\$2,950,000	\$1,847,417	29	99%
June 2008	7	\$850,000	\$1,725,000	\$1,243,000	33	100%
<b>Condominiums</b>						
July 2009	9	\$349,000	\$1,030,000	\$827,667	54	99%
June 2009	3	\$560,000	\$912,500	\$680,500	43	97%
May 2009	4	\$600,000	\$1,200,000	\$826,250	38	98%
July 2008	13	\$563,000	\$1,300,000	\$894,538	59	100%
June 2008	7	\$399,000	\$1,300,000	\$781,857	75	99%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
July 2009	3	\$1,120,000	\$1,725,000	\$1,393,333	97	100%
June 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
May 2009	4	\$925,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,090,000	42	99%
July 2008	3	\$947,000	\$1,575,000	\$1,234,333	74	100%
June 2008	1	\$1,155,000	\$1,155,000	\$1,155,000	17	103%
<b>5+ unit buildings</b>						
July 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
June 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
May 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
July 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—
June 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—

\* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyrsf.com](http://www.zephyrsf.com)) for supplying the sales data.

NV 9/09

### A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range July/Aug. 2009	Average July/Aug. 2009	Average June 2009	Average July/Aug. 2008
Studio	7	\$1,250 – \$1,800	\$1,472 / mo.	\$1,263 / mo.	\$1,500 / mo.
1-bdrm	31	\$1,400 – \$2,400	\$1,633 / mo.	\$2,043 / mo.	\$1,995 / mo.
2-bdrm	36	\$1,895 – \$4,800	\$2,767 / mo.	\$2,856 / mo.	\$2,995 / mo.
3-bdrm	23	\$1,700 – \$8,000	\$4,332 / mo.	\$3,794 / mo.	\$4,357 / mo.
4+-bdrm	4	\$4,650 – \$5,450	\$4,950 / mo.	\$5,398 / mo.	\$7,450 / mo.

\*\* Survey based on a sample of 101 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist.org from July 27 to Aug. 9, 2009.

NV 9/09

### Painted Lady Sells for Close to \$2 Million

A six-room Noe Valley house that once belonged to San Francisco artists William Campbell and Frank Brown sold July 31 for the \$1,975,000 asking price. (See "A Painted Lady and Her Paintings," July-August 2009 *Voice*.)

The Dolores Heights Victorian, located at 3733 21st Street, closed escrow after 29 days on the market. The sellers were Dexter and Judith Garnier, who inherited the 124-year-old property after Brown died in 2000—15 years after his partner passed away in 1985.

Campbell and Brown paid \$9,500 for the house in 1955. The property is pictured in *Painted Ladies: San Francisco's Resplendent Victorians* and in Bill Yenne's *San Francisco: Then and Now*.

The two 20th-century painters produced approximately 800 art works—half of which Dexter Garnier recently exhibited in *The Brown and Campbell Collection Catalog* (Stonehopper, San Francisco).

—Corrie M. Anders

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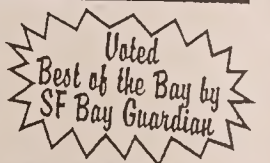
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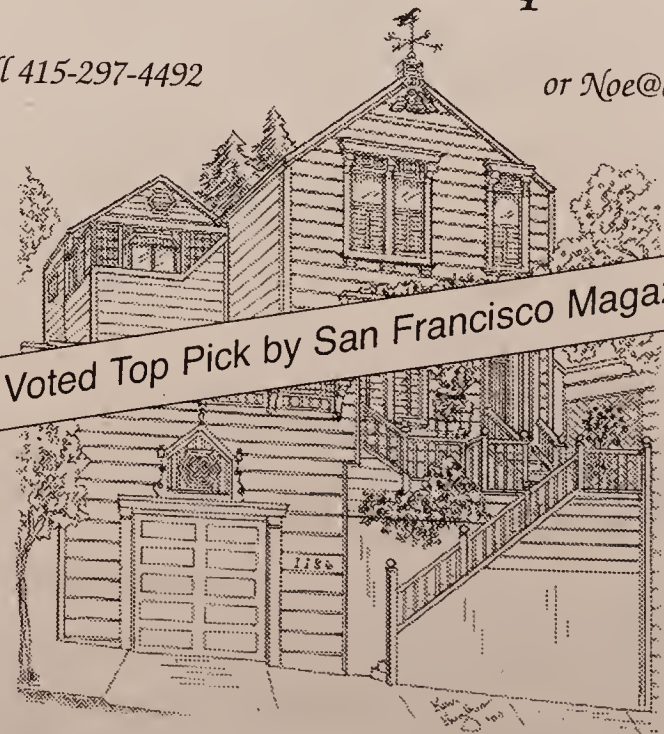
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# POLICE BEAT

## REPORT FROM MISSION STATION

The following crime summaries were culled from incident reports filed at Mission Police Station. They cover some but not all incidents occurring July 16 through Aug. 15, 2009, in the northern half of Noe Valley, which is loosely defined as the area bounded by Grand View, 21st, Guerrero, and Cesar Chavez streets. The summaries this month were provided by Mission Station Captain Stephen Tacchini and Officer Jane Warner of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police.

**July 18, 5:39 p.m., 700 block of Church, Garage Burglary:** A woman reported coming home to find her garage door open. Several deep scratches were in the paint of the door, and the lock was broken. Two bicycles valued at \$2,500, a large duffle bag containing miscellaneous camping gear, a half a case of Dehlinger wine, a Nikon camera, and a portable power source were missing.

**July 24, 3 a.m., 4000 block of 23rd, Burglary, Hot Prowl:** While sleeping, a man awoke to a loud sound like a pan banging downstairs in his apartment. The man did not get up to investigate and went back to sleep. In the morning, when he went downstairs, he discovered the front door was slightly ajar and his wife's purse was missing along with a set of house keys. The resident called the police, who responded to the scene. While talking to officers, the man's wife received a call from her credit card company, reporting her Mastercard had been used at Chevron Gas Station at Castro and Market at 3:30 a.m., and then at another gas station in the city at 5:45 a.m., and then a third time at a Champs Shoe Store located in Chicago. The woman cancelled her credit card and gave the company a report number. Officers determined the point of entry for the burglar was an unlocked deck gate. There are no known suspects.

**July 24, 1:33 p.m., 00 block of Grand View, Theft from Locked Vehicle:** Witness observed a suspect smash a victim's vehicle window and remove the navigation system.

**July 26, 8 p.m., 4000 block of 23rd, Theft, Bicycle:** Victim accidentally left garage door open and upon return found personal items had been stolen. No suspects observed.

**July 31, 10:30 p.m., 4000 block of 26th, Forged Checks:** Victim noticed several unauthorized checks had been cashed on their account. Bank notified.

**Aug. 1, 5:58 a.m., 3700 block of 24th, Malicious Mischief:** Suspects damaged store windows and fled on foot.

**Aug. 2, 1:04 a.m., 4000 block of 24th, Malicious Mischief:** Suspects damaged store windows and fled in a car.

**Aug. 8, 7:40 p.m., 1700 block of Noe, Theft from Vehicle:** A man returned from vacation and saw that his 2005 Cadillac sitting in the carport of his residence had been broken into. Missing from inside the vehicle were several CDs, a Bluetooth, and various paperwork. There was no forced entry and the car may not have been locked.

**Aug. 10, 1:50 p.m., 3900 block of 24th, Malicious Mischief:** Suspect entered a store, knocked over stands, and then fled.

**Aug. 11, 4:30 a.m., 600 block of Diamond, Burglary, Hot Prowl:** A man went to bed at about 10:30 p.m. and woke up at about 4 a.m.

and discovered his house had been ransacked; drawers were left open, closets had been rummaged through, and several items were strewn about the floor. The man, who lives alone, discovered a computer and printer were missing, along with a pair of binoculars and a digital camera. The resident called 911 and officers soon arrived and searched the house, finding a screen cut from a window in the basement. There are no known suspects.

**Aug. 12, 2:10 a.m., 24th and Dolores, Traffic Arrest:** While on routine patrol and stopped at the intersection of 24th and Dolores, a police officer could hear the roar of a large engine approaching from the opposite direction. As the noise grew increasingly louder, the officer suddenly saw a large four-door Toyota Tundra pickup truck crest over the hill, its rear wheels sailing in the air before crashing back down to the pavement. The officer estimated the truck was traveling at 60 miles per hour while speeding southbound on Dolores. The officer turned his patrol car around and gave chase, pulling the speeding vehicle over at Dolores and Clipper streets. The officer cited the driver, for exhibition of speed.

**Aug. 13, 6:20 p.m., 24th and Church, Suspicious Acts Toward Female:** A woman walking home from work noticed a faded black Japanese sedan following her. When she neared 24th and Church, the vehicle pulled up to her. "Can you tell me where 24th Street is?" the driver asked. The woman motioned toward the street, thinking that it was odd because the driver had just turned off of 24th. The car sped on, but a short time later as she neared 22nd Street, the vehicle pulled alongside of her. "Hey, baby," the driver yelled. When the woman looked over, she saw that the driver had his penis exposed and was masturbating. Fearing for her safety, the woman ran across the street and through Dolores Park and called a friend to come pick her up. Once home, the woman called 911 and reported the incident to police. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 20-30 years old, wearing a red T-shirt.

**Aug. 14, 7:15 a.m., 3000 block of 24th, Theft:** A woman reported that she was waiting for the bus inside a coffee shop on 24th Street. When the bus came, she hurriedly got on and forgot her laptop computer, which she had left sitting on top of a table. When she discovered what she had done, she got off the bus and returned to the coffee shop about 20 minutes later. However, the black IBM laptop was gone.

### Tale of Two Districts

Noe Valley is split between two San Francisco police jurisdictions: Mission Police District and Ingleside Police District. With Cesar Chavez Street as the dividing line, Mission police monitor the northern half of the neighborhood, while Ingleside police patrol the southern half. Both districts invite citizens to attend police-community meetings, held monthly. Mission Police District holds meetings on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. This month, the meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Excelsior Library, at 1400 Mission Street.

### Police Contacts

Mission Station: 558-5400  
Anonymous Tip Line: 552-4558  
Capt. Stephen Tacchini: 558-5455  
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Ingleside Station: 404-4000  
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## REPORT FROM INGLESIDE STATION

This crime log for Upper Noe Valley—an area roughly bordered by Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, 30th, and Diamond streets—has been culled from newsletters produced by Captain David Lazar of Ingleside Police Station. Incidents are those logged July 16 to Aug. 15, 2009, and may not include all events reported during the period. If you would like to receive Ingleside's newsletter, send an e-mail to [SFPDInglesideStation@sfgov.org](mailto:SFPDInglesideStation@sfgov.org).

**July 17, 8:31 a.m., 100 block of Day, Residential Burglary, Complex:** The victim stated that she had secured her bicycle to the parking garage with a lock. When the victim returned, she found her bicycle and the lock missing.

**July 18, 6:20 p.m., 00 block of 28th, Warrant Arrest:** Officer Smith and Officer Richards responded to a call of a possible wanted person. Sergeant Paine searched the area and located the subject, who was wanted for a parole violation. The subject was booked.

**July 19, 4:44 p.m., Diamond at 29th, Suspended License:** While patrolling the area, Officers Campos, Ravano, and Hopkins observed a driver of a vehicle who they knew was on active felony probation. The male subject, who has a warrantless search condition, was stopped. The subject's license was suspended, so he was cited and vehicle was towed.

**July 22, 11 a.m., 5200 block of Diamond Heights, Burglary:** Officer Chan responded to a call of a home burglary. Victim noticed the front door was unlocked when he returned home. A laptop and PlayStation were taken.

**July 22, 2:30 p.m., 1900 block of Castro, Vandalism:** Officer Trujillo responded to a call of vandalism and met with the reportee, who told Officer Trujillo that she had gotten into an argument with her boyfriend. After the argument, the boyfriend broke her window and left the area.

**July 23, 5:22 p.m., 1400 block of Church, Commercial Burglary:** An unknown black male and unknown black female subject entered the store and separated. The female suspect kept the worker distracted while, it is believed, the male suspect stole about \$260 from the register. Both suspects fled the store without purchasing anything, and the worker noticed that money from the register had been stolen.

**July 27, 5:51 p.m., San Jose at Valley, Dog Bite:** Officer Leong and Officer Kabanuck were flagged down by a victim of a dog bite. The victim said he attempted to pet a dog that was being walked by its owner, but the dog bit him. The dog and its owner left the area, and the victim was unable to get any information.

**July 30, 8:36 p.m., 00 block of 28th, Burglary:** Officer Chou and Officer Bernal were dispatched to a call of a burglary. The officers met with the resident, who said that he returned home to find his front door open and several personal items stolen.

**July 29, 3:35 p.m., 1600 block of Diamond, Burglary:** Officer Gabriel and Officer Pedersen responded to a report of a burglary. The reportee told the officers that he had inherited a home, but that it had been unoccupied because the premise had been damaged in a fire. Recently, an unauthorized suspect had started squatting on the property. The homeowner confronted the suspect, who fled prior to the

police arriving on scene.

**July 30, 4:55 p.m., 00 block of Duncan, Recovered Vehicle.**

**July 31, 11:15 p.m., 100 block of 28th, Death Report:** Officer Baldovino and Officer Otaguro were dispatched to a call of a death and met with the Fire Department. The reportee stated that they had not been able to contact the relative for some time. The officers, with the assistance of the Fire Department, made entry into the premise and found the resident deceased.

**July 30, 4:47 p.m., 200 block of 30th, Street Robbery:** Officer Cvetovac and Officer Lewis were on foot patrol and noticed an unknown suspicious male running onto a Muni coach. A few minutes later, dispatch broadcast a call of a robbery where the suspect's description matched that of the suspicious person they had taken note of earlier. Officer Lewis, with the assistance of Officer Thompson, located the Muni bus and detained the suspect. The robbery victim positively identified the suspect and said that he had walked up on her and grabbed her cell phone out of her hand. The officers recovered the stolen cell phone off of the suspect, who was eventually booked for robbery.

**Aug. 5, 1:30 a.m., San Jose at 30th, Unlicensed Driver:** Officer Todaro stopped a vehicle for a red light violation. The driver did not have a license. The driver was cited and the vehicle was towed.

**Aug. 5, 12:30 a.m., 1600 block of Diamond, Theft:** Officer Jefferson was approached at Ingleside Station by a man regarding a theft. The man said he left some of his tools inside a house which the owner did not let him retrieve. The man admitted he did not have permission to be inside the house to begin with.

**Aug. 8, 11:10 a.m., 700 block of 27th, Fire Report:** Officer Curry responded to assist with a house fire in the area. Officer Curry and other officers in the area met with the occupant of the house and a neighbor whose house had also been damaged.

**Aug. 8, 2:34 p.m., 1600 block of Diamond, Trespassing:** Officer Fuentes and Officer Gabriel responded to a call regarding a trespasser. The officers were met by several neighbors in the area who said that a man they recognized from previous incidents had tried to gain entry into the building. The man drove by the scene while the officers were there, and was stopped. The owner of the property had advised the suspect and the neighbors that the suspect was not to be on the property. The suspect was then arrested for trespassing.

**Aug. 8, 4:49 p.m., Guerrero at 27th, Suspended License:** Officer Stansbury stopped a vehicle for speeding. The driver was driving with a suspended license. The driver was cited and the car was towed.

**Aug. 8, 7:11 p.m., 5500 block of Diamond Heights, Theft:** Officer Dominguez and Officer Ng responded to a call regarding an auto boost. They then met with the victim, who said that she parked her vehicle on the street. When she returned to it about 20 minutes later, she noticed that her passenger door was open. The victim's purse and all of its contents were missing.

**Aug. 14, 9:32 p.m., 300 block of 29th, Theft:** Officer Otaguro responded to a report of a theft. The victim told the officer that she discovered that her lemon trees had been stolen out of their pots in front of her house. The victim said she last saw the lemon trees on the afternoon of Aug. 14.

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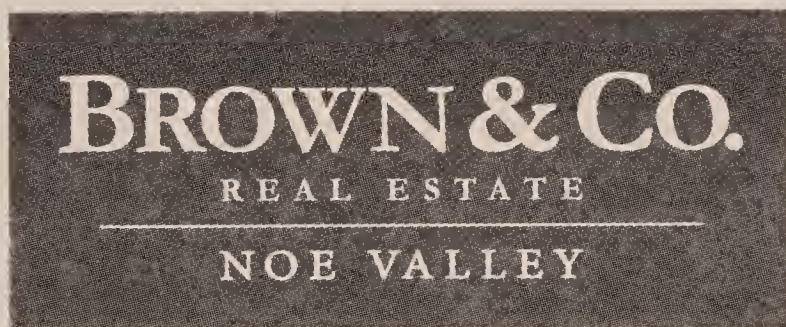
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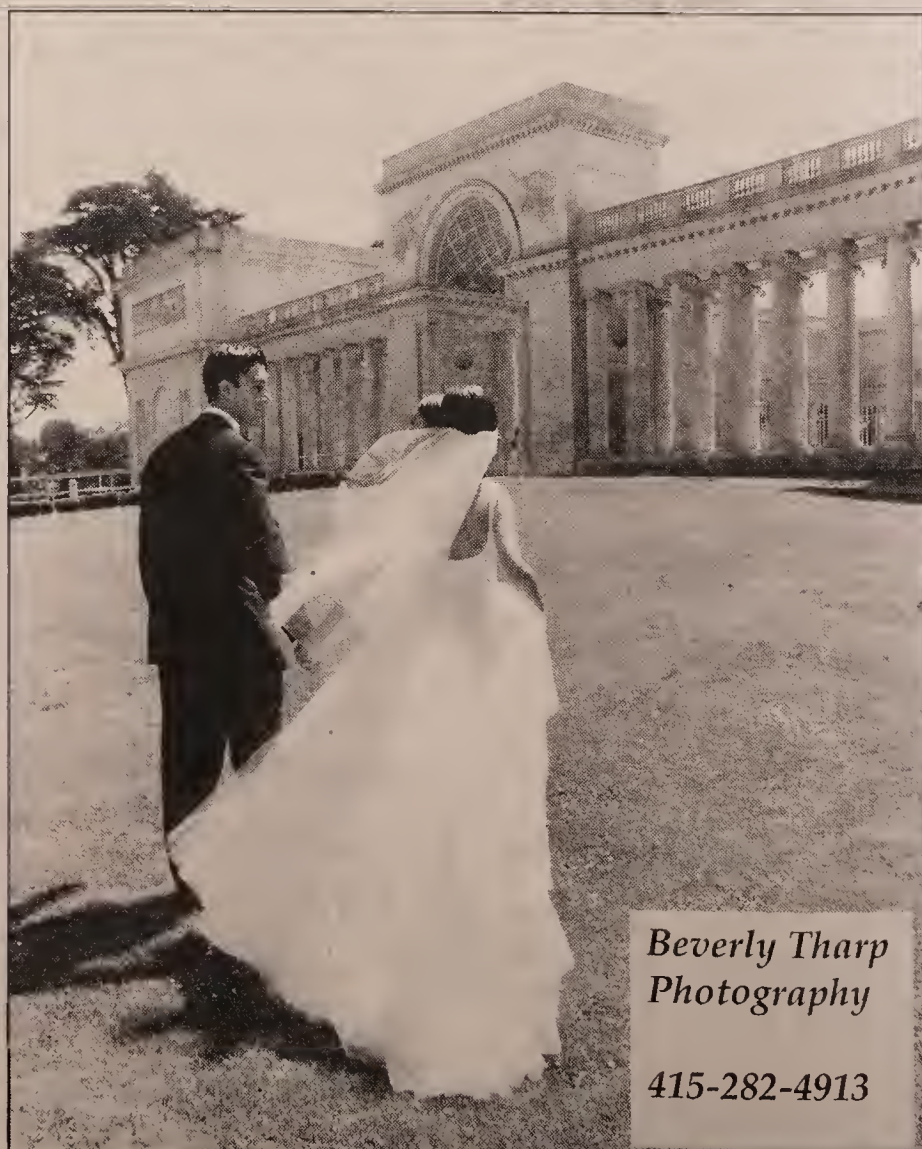
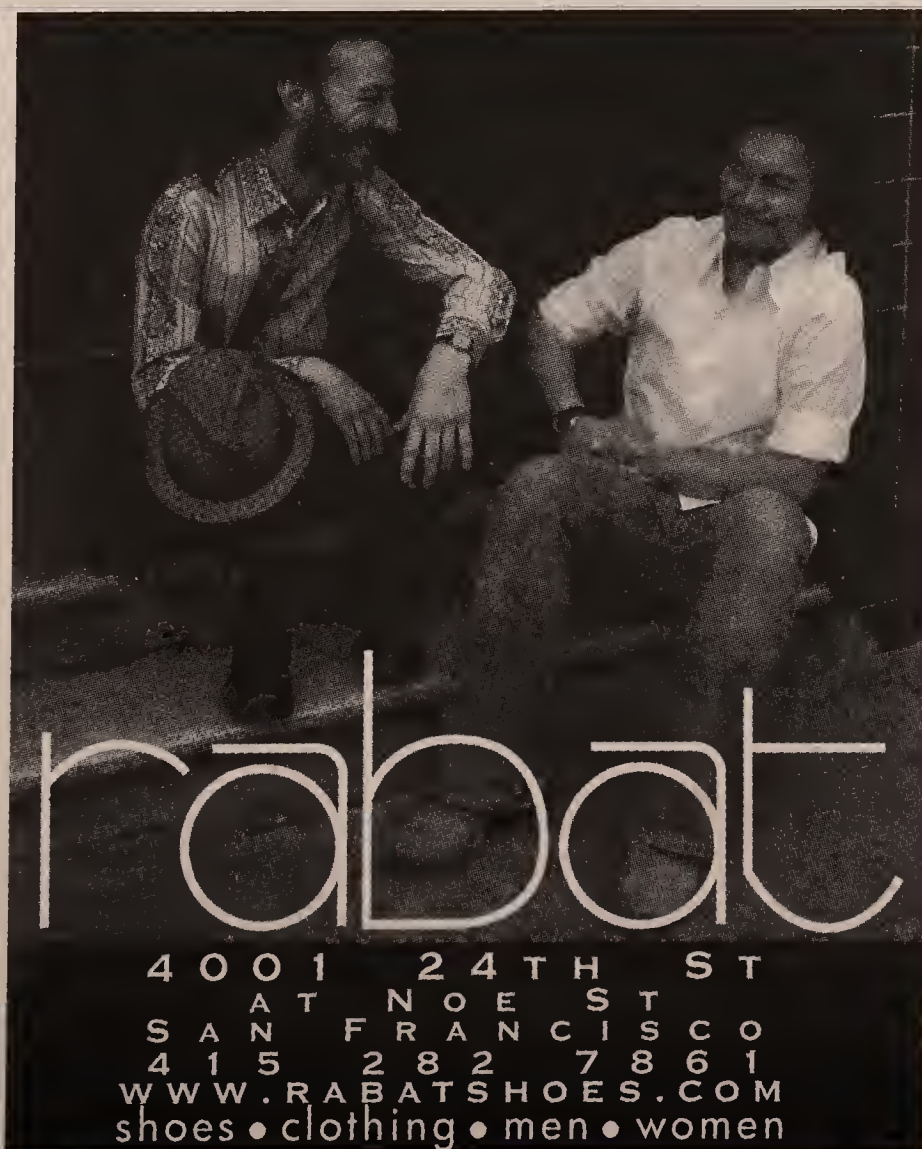


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### Noe Valley

\$799,000

Renovated top floor condo consists of living room, separate dining room that leads to a gleaming kitchen. 2 bedrooms, remodeled bath and a laundry room. A one car garage with lots of storage complete this home.

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# SEPTEMBER 2009

**Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:** Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday-morning STORY HOUR, for newborns to age 4. 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477

**Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:** The Noe Valley Library sponsors TODDLER TALES, 10-15 am, and preschool STORY TIME, 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org).

**Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:** Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:45 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

**Sept. 1-30:** OVEREATERS AND NYMOUS meets Mon.-Sat., 7 to 8 am. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Sept. 1-30:** Kids and their caregivers are invited for TOT TIME at Upper Noe Rec Center. Mon., 10-11:30 am; Tues., 3-5 pm; and Wed., 3-5:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011.

**Sept. 1-30:** Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Call to reserve a spot, 648-1030.

**Sept. 1-30:** The Bay Area PHOTODGRAPHERS' COLLECTIVE displays a members' exhibition at the Harvey Milk Photo Center. Reception Sept. 12, 2-4 pm; Tue.-Thurs., 3-10 pm, Fri. & Sat., 11 am-5 pm. 50 Scott. 554-9522; [www.bapc.info](http://www.bapc.info).

**Sept. 1-30:** CREATIVITY EXPLORED exhibits printmaking and drawings. 3245 16th. 863-2108; [www.creativityexplored.org](http://www.creativityexplored.org).

**Sept. 1 & Oct. 6:** The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama. 554-3050.

**Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** Pal Mei teaches PAL TIME, a class for tots 18 months to 3 years. 9-9:40 am. MoBu Dance Studio, 1605 Church. 550-PALS; [www.pal-ersize.com](http://www.pal-ersize.com).

**Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** The Upper Noe SENIORS group meets on Wednesdays for socializing and bingo. Noon-3:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 970-8061 or 695-5011.

**Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME TIME, for 0-18 months, begins at 3 pm; a family story time for ages 2 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 100 Collingwood. 355-5616.

**Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30:** The Castro FARMERS' MARKET offers produce from 4 to 8 pm Wednesdays through October. Noe & Market. Merchants of Upper Market & Castro, [www.pfcm.com](http://www.pfcm.com).

**Sept. 2-30:** Maria Tam teaches a YIJIN TAI CHI class at Upper Noe Rec Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. 7-8:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 828-9436.

**Sept. 3, 10, 17 & 24:** A Thursday STROLLER WALK starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am and rolls through Noe and the Castro. 3872 24th. [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**Sept. 3, 10, 17 & 24:** Kiki-Yo offers a PILATES fundamentals class. 6-6:55 pm, Thursdays. 605B Chenery. 587-5454.

**Sept. 3-24:** "Strange Fruit" features new ARTWORK by the Date Farmers, at Fifty24SF Gallery. Tues.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 248 & 252 Fillmore. 252-9144; [www.fifty24sf.com](http://www.fifty24sf.com).

**Sept. Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** CLARE tells tales for kids at Cover to Cover's Friday story hour, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Just Awesome! hosts Friday Night Fun, featuring family-friendly GAMES and pizza, 6 to 8 pm. 816 Diamond. 970-1484, [www.justawesomegames.com](http://www.justawesomegames.com).

**Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Yell "BINGO!" at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538

**Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26:** The Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET features fresh produce and music by a variety of performers. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; [www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com](http://www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com).

**Sept. 5 & Oct. 3:** The LADYBUG GARDENING group at Upper Noe Valley Park meets the first Saturday of the month to plant flowers, pull weeds, and pick up litter. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. [jrlion@aol.com](mailto:jrlion@aol.com).

**Sept. 5-10:** A SING-ALONG *Mary Poppins* at the Castro Theater screens at 7 pm, with 2 pm shows Sat. through Mon. 429 Castro. [www.thecastrotheatre.com](http://www.thecastrotheatre.com).

**Sept. 6:** SUNDAY STREETS features car-free activities along the Great Highway, from Golden Gate Park to the SF Zoo. 10 am-2 pm. [www.sundaystreetsf.com](http://www.sundaystreetsf.com).

**Sept. 6:** Board the historic SF Maritime National Park VESSELS at Hyde Street Pier free on the first Sunday of the month. 447-5000; <http://nps.gov/safr>.

**Sept. 6:** DUB MISSION celebrates its 13th anniversary with the Twilight Circus Dub Sound System with Ryan Moore. 9 pm-2 am. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; [www.elbo.com](http://www.elbo.com).

**Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27:** Learn about MIS-SIDN DOLDRES at a City Guides walk on Sundays, 11 am. Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church. 557-4266, [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**Sept. 6 & 20:** SF City Guides leads free WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays. 1-3 pm. Meet at 451 Jersey. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**Sept. 6-29:** City Guide Dan Sullivan leads "Castro: Tales of the Village," a WALKING TOUR of the Castro, every Tuesday and Sunday. Meet at 11 am at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro & Market) under the rainbow flag. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**Sept. 6 & Oct. 4:** Rocket DOG RESCUE has dogs who need homes. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

**Sept. 7:** Rabbi Leo Michel Abrami reads from his work at DDD MONDAYS at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Chris Sequeira offers a free Introductory QIGONG/TAI CHI session outdoors at 10:30 am, and at the Noe Valley Ministry at 6 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 773-8185; [livingtaichi@yahoo.com](mailto:livingtaichi@yahoo.com).

**Sept. 8:** Marcel Allbritton begins teaching CLASSIC YOGA on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Noe Valley Ministry. 6-7 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 200-9825; [www.classicyoga.net](http://www.classicyoga.net).

**Sept. 8:** Elizabeth Stark gives a free writing WRKSHOP, "Plot Your Novel," kicking off a seven-month writing binge. 6:30-8 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246; [www.moderntimesbookstore.com](http://www.moderntimesbookstore.com).

**Sept. 8:** Jurek Mazur presents the history of ARGENTINE TANGO. 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org).

**Sept. 9 & 12:** Two eldercare professionals discuss "Families Dealing with DEMENTIA" in a workshop and discussion at the Glen Park Library. Wed., 5:30-7:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

**Sept. 9, 16 & 20:** City Guides offers tours of THEATRE in San Francisco, starting 10 am. Meet by the stage at Yerba Buena Gardens, Mission between 3rd and 4th. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**Sept. 9-20:** Actors from 43 companies do a marathon of INDIE THEATER at the San Francisco Fringe Festival. Nine venues. 673-3847; [www.sffringe.org](http://www.sffringe.org).

**Sept. 10:** Bake any flavor PIE to enter a contest at Omnivore Books, or eat and judge for a \$5 entry fee; winner splits the door money. 6-7 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).



Jill Pierce and Tamsen Fynn of Orange Sherbet will perform at a Sept. 12 Family Concert and fundraiser for the Noe Valley Ministry.

**Sept. 10:** The Dan Aykroyd/Eddie Murphy comedy *Trading Places* is on the screen at Dolores Park MOVIE NIGHT. 8 pm. [www.doloresparkmovie.org](http://www.doloresparkmovie.org).

**Sept. 10:** Openhouse Outreach invites LGBT SENIORS to second-Thursday meetings at 30th Street Senior Center. 10 am. 225 30th. 296-8995.

**Sept. 10:** The Elder Women's League and the League of Women Voters host a panel discussion, "What's Washington Doing about HEALTH CARE?" 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 989-4422, [www.owlsf.org](http://www.owlsf.org).

**Sept. 10-17:** The MARSH Youth Theater's Teen Troupe auditions kids who'd like to perform the musical *The Wave*. 1062 Valencia. 826-5750, ext. 3; [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

**Sept. 10-26:** DAN HOYLE performs a revival of *Tings Dey Happen*, his solo play about Nigerian oil politics. Thurs., 8 pm; Sat., 5 pm; Sun., 7 pm. 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

**Sept. 10-Oct. 4:** The 7th annual ALTEREO BARBIE Art Show features creativity by over 60 artists. Reception Sept. 17, 5-10 pm; Tues.-Sat., 1-7 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. Shotwell 50 Studios, 50 Shotwell. 240-2202; [www.alteredbarbie.com](http://www.alteredbarbie.com).

**Sept. 11:** 101 Dalmatians and *Shaun the Sheep* play at FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, sponsored by Video Wave and Fima Photography and featuring free popcorn and other treats. 6 pm. 1414 Castro. 550-7577 or 541-1010.

**Sept. 12:** Survivors International hosts a conference, "GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: Our Duty to Protect and Heal." 8:30 am-5:30 pm. UC Hastings School of Law, 200 McAllister. [www.survivorsintl.org](http://www.survivorsintl.org).

**Sept. 12:** The Friends of Duboce Park hold their annual TAG SALE along Duboce between Steiner and Scott, 9 am-2 pm. [www.dtna.org](http://www.dtna.org).

**Sept. 12:** The Friends of Dolores Park host a MUSIC TOGETHER CLASS for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with a parent. 11 am-noon. Dolores Park Playground. 647-8596; [www.friendsofdolorespark.org](http://www.friendsofdolorespark.org).

**Sept. 12:** Learn the BIKE BUDDY RDUTE to and from the Golden Gate Bridge. 2 pm. New riders email [bikebuddy@sfbike.org](mailto:bikebuddy@sfbike.org).

**Sept. 12:** Local doulas and MIDWIVES gather on second Saturdays at Natural Resources. 2-4 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; [www.naturalresources-sf.com](http://www.naturalresources-sf.com).

**Sept. 12:** Chef Cindy Pawlcyn discusses her *Big Small Plates* from 3 to 4 pm, and restaurant critic Frank Bruni introduces his memoir, *Born Round*, from 5 to 6 pm. DMNIVDRE Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

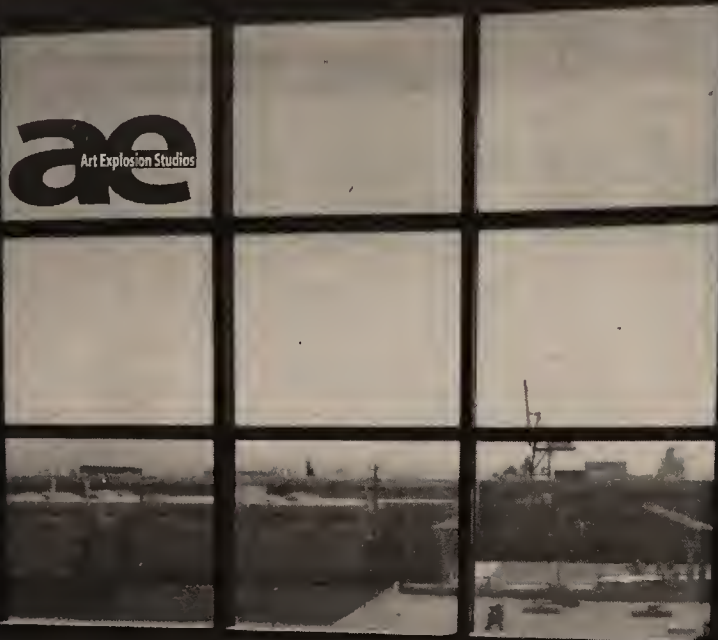
**Sept. 12:** The ORANGE SHERBET BAND with Jill Pierce and Tamsen Fynn performs a fundraiser concert for the Noe Valley Ministry. 4-5 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Sept. 12:** Alonzo King's SF DANCE CENTER celebrates its 20th birthday with a live DJ, food and cocktails, and dancing. 7-11 pm. 26 7th. [www.linesballet.org](http://www.linesballet.org).

**Sept. 12-Oct. 18:** Artwork by Gage Dpdenbrouw and Jose Ramon Lerma is on display at ARTZONE 461 Gallery. Reception Sept. 12, 5-8 pm; Wed-Sun, noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia. 441-8680; [www.artzone461.com](http://www.artzone461.com).

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# CALENDAR

**Sept. 13:** The 8th annual "Jerseys DII Dur Giants" BASEBALL GAME (vs. the L.A. Dodgers) is a fundraiser for La Casa de las Madres. 9:30 am-3 pm. AT&T Park. 503-0500; [www.lacasadelasmadres.org](http://www.lacasadelasmadres.org)

**Sept. 13:** Local author Alie Murray reads from *Maid as Muse: How Servants Changed EMILY DICKINSON'S Life and Language*. 1-3 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org).

**Sept. 13:** VEGETARIAN restaurant owner Nancy Mehagian tells her story in *Siren's Feast: An Edible Odyssey*. 3-4 pm. Dmnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**Sept. 13 & 27:** "YDGA FOR CURMUDGEONS" begins at Cover to Cover bookstore at 7 pm. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**Sept. 13, 20 & 27:** The Bliss Bar Sunday Afternoon JAZZ SERIES features pianist Larry Vuckovich with Kenny Washington (Sept. 13), Frank Jackson (Sept. 20), and Dana Land (Sept. 27). 4:30-7:30 pm. 4026 24th. 826-6200; [www.blissbarsf.com](http://www.blissbarsf.com).

**Sept. 14:** The restaurant's three owners discuss *The BIG SUR Bakery Cookbook*. 6-7 pm. Dmnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**Sept. 14:** Stephen Elliott holds a RUMPUS, featuring Will Durst and readings by authors D.A. Powell, Robert Mailer Anderson, Minal Hajratwala, Sona Avakian, and Ryan Boudinot. 7 pm. The Makeout Room, 3225 22nd. 647-2888. <http://therumpus.net>.

**Sept. 14:** Kung Pao KOSHER CDMEDY presents Diane Amos, David Hawkins, Ray Ferrer, Brendan Lynch, Dana Cory, and Lisa Geduldig. 7:30 pm. El Rio, 3158 Mission. 522-3737; [www.koshercomedy.com](http://www.koshercomedy.com).

**Sept. 14, 21 & 28:** Infants and crawlers are invited to sing and play in English and Spanish at BILINGUAL BABY PLAY at Mission Library. 1:10 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

**Sept. 15:** GAME INVENTORS and designers are invited to meet at Just Awesome! to share their ideas. 8:16 Diamond. 970-1484; [www.justawesomemegames.com](http://www.justawesomemegames.com).

**Sept. 16:** The VISUAL ARTS Committee of the SF Arts Commission meets third Wednesdays at 3 pm. 25 Van Ness, Suite 70. 252-2590; [www.sfartscommission.org](http://www.sfartscommission.org).

**Sept. 16:** The Noe Valley BDDK Discussion Group meets on third Wednesdays, from 7 to

8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707. [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org).

**Sept. 17:** The EUREKA VALLEY Promotion Association meets the third Thursday of the month. 7:30 pm. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro. 437-9414. [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org)

**Sept. 18:** OPENHOUSE and the 30th Street Senior Center host a reception and tour for LGBT seniors (age 60 and over). 3:30-5:30 pm. 225 30th. RSVP by Sept. 11 to 296-8995.

**Sept. 18:** *Toy Story* follows Looney Tunes at FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, sponsored by Video Wave and Fima Photography. 6 pm. 1414 Castro. 550-7577 or 541-1010.

**Sept. 18-20:** The Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park offers residents in the 94114 and 94131 zip codes FREE ADMISSION. So go feed the penguins! 379-8000; [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org).

**Sept. 19:** Danielle Svetcov signs copies of *The Un-Constipated Gourmet*, at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market. 10 am-noon. 24th at Vicksburg. [www.theunconstipatedgourmet.com](http://www.theunconstipatedgourmet.com).

**Sept. 19:** Giuliano Hazan introduces his *Thirty-Minute PASTA*. 12:30 to 1:30 pm; Deirdre Heekin and Caleb Barber discuss their book, *In Late Winter We Ate Pears*, 3 to 4 pm. Dmnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**Sept. 19:** "CDMMUNITY ART from the Heart" at Precita Eyes debuts *Street Art San Francisco: Mission Muralismo*, a collaboration by over 200 artists and writers. 6:30-9:30 pm. SomArts, 934 Brannan. 285-2287; [www.precitaeyes.org](http://www.precitaeyes.org).

**Sept. 20:** Just Awesome! celebrates a 9-month BIRTHDAY PARTY with cake, coffee, and door prizes. 2-6 pm. 816 Diamond. 970-1484; [www.justawesomemegames.com](http://www.justawesomemegames.com).

**Sept. 21:** Lisa Carlson and Li Miao Lovett read short pieces at DDD MNDAYS at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Sept. 21:** Atlas Café hosts a discussion, "COOL CUISINE: The Global Warming Diet," about changing one's food choices to reduce carbon emissions. 7-9 pm. 3049 20th. 648-1047; [www.sciencecafesf.com](http://www.sciencecafesf.com).

**Sept. 23:** PARENTS PLACE sponsors a workshop on "Choosing a Kindergarten" led by Lee Ann Slaton. 5:30-7:30 pm. 1710 Scott. 359-2454; [www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org](http://www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org).

**Sept. 23:** Author MIKE MILLER discusses *A Community Organizer's Tale: Money and Power in San Francisco*, his book centered in the Mission District. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246; [www.moderntimesbookstore.com](http://www.moderntimesbookstore.com).

**Sept. 23:** The Beat Museum gives a BOOK-SIGNING for Steve Schwartz and his detective novel *Boulevard*. 7 pm. 540 Broadway. [www.thebeatmuseum.org](http://www.thebeatmuseum.org).

**Sept. 24:** Noe Valley Library hosts INFANT MASSAGE, for ages 3 weeks to crawling; bring a mat or blanket. 10:15-11:15 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org).

**Sept. 24:** Michelle Maisto reads from *Gastronomy of a Marriage: A Memoir of Food and Love* at OMNIVORE Books. 6-7 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**Sept. 24:** Community activism around budget cuts and health care will be discussed at a meeting of RADICAL WOMEN. Summer buffet, 6:15 pm; program, 7 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin. 864-1278; [www.radicalwomen.org](http://www.radicalwomen.org).

**Sept. 24:** Local naturalist Liam D'Brien discusses "The Green Hairstreak Project," a BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION effort. 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**Sept. 25:** FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT shows *The Rescuers* and a Pixar short, starting at 6 pm. 1414 Castro. 550-7577 or 541-1010.

**Sept. 25:** Fairmount Elementary School hosts a FAMILY DANCE/Baile Familiar in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. 6 pm. 65 Chenery. 695-5669.

**Sept. 25:** *The SCANDINAVIAN Cookbook* by Trina Hahnemann includes 115 seasonal and traditional recipes. 6-7 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**Sept. 25:** A RETIREMENT PARTY for Librarian Carol Small begins at 6:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707.

**Sept. 26:** The SF Bicycle Coalition's TOUR DE FAT features a bike cruise through Golden Gate Park and a jamboree with live music and food. 9 am-4 pm; Speedway Meadow. 431-BIKE; [www.sfbike.org](http://www.sfbike.org).

**Sept. 26:** Bring usable items, food, and talents to the Really REALLY FREE MARKET the last Saturday of the month, noon. Dolores Park, Dolores & 18th.

**Sept. 26:** Andrea Nguyen brings *ASIAN DUMPLINGS: Mastering Gyoza, Spring Rolls, Gyoza, and More* to Dmnivore Books. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**Sept. 26:** Americana quintet Houston Jones performs for the Blah Blah Wool Wool Singer Songwriter CDNCERT SERIES at Mobu Dance Studio. 7:30 pm. 1605 Church. 602-8557; [www.houstonjones.com](http://www.houstonjones.com).

**Sept. 27:** Billed as "the world's largest and best-loved leather fair," the FDLSON STREET FAIR runs from 11 am to 6 pm, between 7th and 12th streets.

**Sept. 27:** Gayle Pirie, chef and owner of Foreign Cinema Restaurant, discusses her book *Country EGG, City Egg*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**Sept. 29:** The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association meets on the last Tuesday of the month. 9 am. Bank of America, 4098 24th. [info@nvmerchants.com](mailto:info@nvmerchants.com) or call Gwen Sanderson, 550-7577.

**Sept. 29:** David Lebovitz signs his books, including *The Sweet Life in Paris*, at OMNIVORE. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**Sept. 29:** Chris Carlsson of Shaping San Francisco and Lisa Ruth Elliott of FoundSF.org describe their Wiki-based archive of SF history, at the meeting of the San Francisco History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; [www.sanfranciscohistory.org](http://www.sanfranciscohistory.org).

**Sept. 30:** Deadline to apply for a CDMMU-UNITY CHALLENGE GRANT, to create green spaces, public art, and other neighborhood amenities. 554-4830; [www.sfgov.org/ccg](http://www.sfgov.org/ccg).

**Sept. 30:** The Mission Library offers a discussion, "PUBLIC SCHOOLS 101. Choosing an Elementary School." 7-7:45 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

**Oct. 2:** Kids will enjoy *Kiki's Delivery Service* and then *The Pink Panther* at Noe Valley's FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT. 6 pm. 1414 Castro. 550-7577 or 541-1010.

**Oct. 2:** The sixth annual San Francisco NATIVE Jamboree and silent auction to benefit the SF Conservation Corps takes place at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. Call 732-7520, ext. 49; email [info@sfnativejamboree.com](mailto:info@sfnativejamboree.com).

**Oct. 3:** Four stores—When Modern Was, Loft 1513, Lynn Antiques, and the new garden store Independent Nature—hold a SIDEWALK SALE along Church Street from Cesar Chavez to 28th. 11 am-6 pm. 1504 Church. 970-1030.

**Oct. 3:** ALLISON BARTLETT reads from *The Man Who Loved Books Too Much*. 7-9 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**Oct. 3 & 4:** ArtSpan holds its preview GALA for San Francisco Open Studios, held weekends in October. (Free public reception on Sunday, Oct. 4.) 7:30-10 pm. SOMArts Gallery, 934 Brannan. [www.artspan.org](http://www.artspan.org)

**Oct. 3 & 4:** The 10th annual WDRLD VEG FESTIVAL, hosted by the SF Vegetarian Society and In Defense of Animals, features lectures, cooking demos, and Veggie Speed Dating. 10 am-6 pm. SF County Fair Building, 9th Ave. at Lincoln. 273-5481, [www.sfvfs.org](http://www.sfvfs.org).

**Oct. 4:** An eight-week class for teens (ages 11 and up) to explore RELIGION vs. SPIRITUALITY begins at the Noe Valley Ministry. Noon. 1021 Sanchez. For info contact Heather Grantham, director of Family Ministry, 282-8626; [familyministry@noevalleyministry.org](mailto:familyministry@noevalleyministry.org).

## OCTOBER DEADLINE

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **October 2009** issue, appearing on the streets of Noe Valley the first week of October. Email items by **Sept. 15** to [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com) or write us at *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: Noe Valley events may receive priority. Thank you.

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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## OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10 • PIE CONTEST • 6-7 P.M. • PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS - [WWW.OMNIVOREBOOKS.COM](http://WWW.OMNIVOREBOOKS.COM)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 • 3-4 P.M. • CINDY PAWLACYN • BIG SMALL PLATES • FREE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 • 5-6 P.M. FRANK BRUNI BORN ROUND: THE SECRET HISTORY OF A FULL-TIME EATER • FREE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13 • 3-4 P.M. • NANCY MEHAGIAN • SIREN'S FEAST: AN EDIBLE ODYSSEY • FREE

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14 • 6-7 P.M. • BIG SUR BAKERY COOKBOOK: A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A RESTAURANT • FREE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 • 12:30-1:30 P.M. • GIULIANO HAZAN'S THIRTY MINUTE PASTA: 100 QUICK AND EASY RECIPES • FREE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 • 3-4 P.M. • DEIRDRE HEekin AND CALEB BARBER • IN LATE WINTER WE ATE PEARS: A YEAR OF HUNGER AND LOVE AND LIBATION, A BITTER ALCHEMY • FREE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 • 6-7 P.M. • MICHELLE MAISTO • GASTRONOMY OF A MARRIAGE: A MEMOIR OF FOOD AND LOVE • FREE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 • 6-7 P.M. • TRINA HAHNEMANN • THE SCANDINAVIAN COOKBOOK • FREE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26 • 3-4 P.M. • ANDREA NGUYEN • ASIAN DUMPLINGS: MASTERING GYOZA, SPRING ROLLS, SAMOSAS, AND MORE • FREE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27 • 3-4 P.M. • GAYLE PIRIE OF FOREIGN CINEMA • COUNTRY EGG, CITY EGG • FREE

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28 • 6-7 P.M. • DAVID LEBOVITZ • THE SWEET LIFE IN PARIS AND THE PERFECT SCOOP • FREE

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September 2009 Neighborhood Free Days

NEIGHBORHOOD	ZIP CODE	FREE DAYS
Sunset, Parkside, Stonestown, Lakeshore, St. Francis Woods	94122, 94116, 94127, 94132	September 11, 12, 13
Castro, Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, Miraloma Park, Haight, Cole Valley	94117, 94114, 94131	September 18, 19, 20

Check the complete schedule on [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org) or call 415.379.8000 to confirm your Neighborhood Free Days.

Each visiting adult must prove residency by showing a driver's license or a utility bill. On each scheduled date, only residents from the specified zip codes will be admitted free of charge.

As part of Bank of America's longtime support of museums and local educational programs, the Academy offers Neighborhood Free Days to San Francisco residents.





# SHORT TAKES

## Holocaust Survivor at Odd Mondays

French-born rabbi Leo Michel Abrami, who dodged the Nazi horrors during World War II, will help the Odd Mondays series launch its ninth season of lectures and cultural programs this month at the Noe Valley Ministry.

During his appearance on Monday, Sept. 7, Abrami will sign and read from two memoirs: *Evading the Nazis: The Story of a Hidden Child in Normandy*, which reveals how he avoided German troops by hiding out in the French countryside disguised as a Catholic boy, and *The Adventures of Rabbi Arie: A Destined Mission Around the World*, which describes his postwar career.

Abrami, who lives in Phoenix and teaches at the Jewish Studies Institute and the Arizona Institute of Logotherapy, has also served as a rabbi in Guatemala and a prison chaplain in California.

Two short-story writers continue the series on Monday, Sept. 21. Li Miao Lovett of San Francisco will read from "In the Lap of the Gods," a forthcoming novel set in China that centers on the devastating impact caused by construction of a huge dam on the Yangtze River. Lisa Carlson of Oakland, an actress and memoirist, will talk about her memoir in the works, "Moving Mummy."

The free and informal discussions start at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall at the Ministry, located at 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. Visit [www.oddmomdays.com](http://www.oddmomdays.com) for a full schedule of events September through January. The Odd Mondays series is presented by Noe Valley residents Ramon Sender Barayón and Judith Levy-Sender. For information, email [ramonsender@comcast.net](mailto:ramonsender@comcast.net).

—Corrie M. Anders

## What Do We Need on 24th Street?

The Noe Valley Association will conduct a survey this month to find out what kinds of businesses Noe Valley residents and shoppers would like to see filling the vacancies along 24th Street.

"The survey will ask questions like: What do people want to see in terms of merchants on 24th Street, in terms of services or retail or restaurants? What's missing on 24th Street?" explains Debra Niemann, executive director of the association, which runs the community benefit district along 24th Street and is the chief sponsor of the annual Harvest Festival (coming up Oct. 24).

The survey will be held online, and will take place over two weeks, from Sept. 7 to 21. During that period, those who'd like to participate should log on to [www.noevalleyassociation.org](http://www.noevalleyassociation.org) to find a link to the questions.

Niemann, who has lived in Noe Valley for 20 years, says her daughter, Rachel Brodwin, a freshman at Lick-Wilmerding High School, will help create the electronic survey. Results should be available in October, Niemann says.

If you have questions, e-mail [Debra@noevalleyassociation.org](mailto:Debra@noevalleyassociation.org).  
—Sally Smith

## Great Senior Moments on 30th Street

Next month, the staff and seniors at On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center will celebrate an important milestone: three decades of senior services at 30th and Dolores streets. When they do, they hope you will join them.

The senior center is seeking volunteers, sponsors, and auction items for a 30th-anniversary dinner dance Oct. 17, benefitting the nonprofit's ongoing nutrition, exercise, and education programs.

"A lot of programs don't last 30 years. It impacts so many seniors. We're up to more than 5,000 seniors a year," says Marianne Hampton, a Noe Valley resident and 30th Street Senior Center board member who has worked with the organization for the last 10 years.

Organizers hope funds from ticket sales, a silent auction, and a raffle contest at the event will allow the center's meal programs to weather state and city budget cuts without interruption of service.

"We're just getting slammed by the budget cuts," Hampton says.

The dinner will also honor longtime supporters of the center, which, in addition to weekday lunches, offers bilingual case management and a variety of classes and activities.

Among this year's special honorees are 30-year volunteer Celia Flores, 25-year volunteer Bernadine Garcia, the original Friends of 30th Street Executive Committee (Libby Denebeim, Robert Erickson, Hadley Hall, Norma Statten, and Joyce Tufts), and Jorge Santis, who will receive this year's staff award for his 20 years at the center, located at 225 30th Street.

The party will take place at Patio Español Restaurant, 2850 Alemany Blvd. Tickets are \$80 each. For ticket or sponsorship information, contact Aimee Eng at 415-292-8732 or Marianne Hampton at 415-601-7845. Additional information can be found online at [www.onlok.org](http://www.onlok.org). Or you may call the center—open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.—at 550-2230.

—Lorraine Sanders

## A Mission Murals Celebration

A few short blocks from Noe Valley, on the storefronts and walls of the Mission District, you will find some of the finest mural art in America, painted by local, national, and international artists.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, many of those artists will gather at a gala, celebrating the publication of *Street Art San Francisco: Mission Muralismo*, a book created as a "unique record of the San Francisco Mission Mural Movement." They'll also be raising money for the organization that has championed mural arts for 32 years, the Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center at 2981 24th Street near Harrison Street.

The book project took 10 years, says Precita Eyes spokesperson Linda D'Avirro, and includes contributions from more than 200 artists and writers. Works range from stencil art and painted murals to graffiti spraycan art and papel picado, a traditional folk art of finely cut paper.

The evening, called "Community Art from the Heart," will feature a book-signing, live music, cocktails, and a silent and live auction of original art. Some auction items will be from notables such as Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who donated a print of her own work of a floral arrangement.

Festivities will be held at SOMArts, 934 Brannan Street near Eighth Street, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 per person, and the public is encouraged and welcome to attend.

For more information, visit [www.precitaeyes.org](http://www.precitaeyes.org) or phone 415-285-2287.

—Corrie M. Anders

## Book Love Gone Wrong

Sure, many of us are looking for the next great read. But few would go to jail for it.

Literary love so strong it turns criminal is the subject of local journalist (and former *Voice* writer) Allison Hoover Bartlett's debut title *The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession*, due out this month (Sept. 17).

The story tells the tale of rare book thief John Charles Gilkey, who once made it his goal to own a first-edition copy of every title on Modern Library's Top 100 list, and rare book dealer Ken Sanders, who made it his mission to find Gilkey and thwart his efforts.

"Here's somebody that was so obsessed with books that he would do just about anything to get them, including give up his freedom and go to jail," says Bartlett, a 23rd Street resident and San Francisco Writers' Grotto member who's written for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *San Francisco* magazine.

In and out of jail for his crimes, many of which were carried out at the expense of Bay Area bookstores, Gilkey has stolen such coveted tomes as a signed copy of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* worth \$10,000, a signed copy of John Steinbeck's *East of Eden* valued at \$5,000, and a \$2,500 signed copy of Anne Rice's *Interview with the Vampire*.

"The central narrative is about this modern-day rare book thief, but the larger story really is about book passion. Nowadays, when people are talking about ebook readers and the future of the book, it's interesting to think about what books mean to people," Bartlett says.

The author will reveal more secrets at her local book-release party on Saturday, Oct. 3, 7 to 9 p.m., at Cover to Cover Booksellers, 1307 Castro St. Don't worry. Gilkey has been barred from showing his face at Bartlett's signings.

—Lorraine Sanders

## Movie Night Shows 101 Dalmatians

Free Family Movie Nights at Fima Photography have shifted to Fridays at 6 p.m. to accommodate earlier bedtimes now that school has started, says Gwen Sanderson of Video Wave on Castro Street, which co-sponsors the weekly screenings.

Started on Wednesdays in July, the free movie, free popcorn, and free glass of wine event drew a crowd of 17 people (including toddlers) by the fourth week, she says. Fima Photography, located at 1414 Castro near Jersey, has a large plasma screen in its viewing room, which holds up to 20 people. Sanderson says she and shop owner Fima Gelman also provide chips and salsa or cheese and crackers, plus juice boxes and water for the kids.

"The viewing room has glass doors, so we hope parents will have time to hang out and mix as well," she says.

Each night begins with a film short, followed by a movie appropriate for all ages. Dogs, mice, and toys dominate the fall lineup, with *101 Dalmatians*, *Toy Story*, and *The Rescuers* scheduled for the Fridays starting Sept. 11.

Film titles will be posted in Video Wave's

window and on the community bulletin board at the mini-park in front of the Saturday Farmers' Market at 24th and Vicksburg. Also, various merchants will have posters in their windows, says Sanderson.

If you have questions or a movie suggestion, check in with Sanderson at Video Wave, 415-550-7577, or Gelman at Fima Photography, 415-541-1010.

—Heather World

## Boys Chorus Seeks New Voices

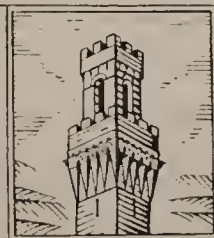
The San Francisco Boys Chorus is searching for young vocalists who'd like to join its award-winning singing group.

Auditions for boys between the ages of 5 and 12 will be held Sept. 12 at locations in San Francisco, Oakland, and San Rafael.

No musical experience is necessary to try out for the chorus, which performed last January at the inauguration of President Barack Obama. The chorus says financial assistance is available and no qualified boy will be turned away due to economic need.

The Boys Chorus was started in 1948

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33



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# SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

to help train young singers performing with the San Francisco Opera. The group includes more than 200 boys from 50 Bay Area cities, who receive music education, vocal training, and stage experience. In addition to performing its own season, the Boys Chorus tours and records nationally and internationally.

In San Francisco, new hopefuls will audition between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Jones United Methodist Church, 1975 Post Street. (Oakland auditions are at the Mormon Temple and Interstake Center, 4780 Lincoln Ave.; in San Rafael they will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1123 Court Street.)

No walk-ins are permitted. To make an audition appointment, go to [www.sfbco.org/auditions](http://www.sfbco.org/auditions); call 415-861-7464, ext. 319; or email [auditions@sfbco.org](mailto:auditions@sfbco.org).

—Corrie M. Anders

## Be a Giant Help to La Casa

See the San Francisco Giants battle the L.A. Dodgers for free on Sunday, Sept. 13, while supporting victims of domestic violence by selling raffle tickets to benefit La Casa de las Madres.

Volunteers, including players' wives, will work the crowd, selling \$1 raffle tickets for a chance at autographed game-worn jerseys, which are not available at any other event, says La Casa's volunteer coordinator, Walesa Kanarek.

Started 33 years ago, La Casa was the first battered women's shelter in California and the second in the nation. It has grown to include a hotline, counseling, and classes for victims of domestic violence, and free presentations to businesses and schools. Nearly 5,000 victims of domestic violence receive crisis counseling, resources, and referrals each year through La Casa's statewide adult and teen crisis lines.

For the past eight years, the organization has raised about \$140,000 from "Jerseys Off Our Giants," part of the team's Strike Out Violence Day. Besides the raf-

fle, a ceremony before the game will honor survivors of violence, violence-prevention grant recipients, and Junior Giants Imagine Peace contest winners.

The first year, the group raised \$32,000, but the second year it raised only \$14,000 because it did not have enough volunteers, says Kanarek.

"We'd like 150 volunteers this year," she says.

Those who sell the most will win prizes, and all volunteers will be treated to breakfast, orientation, snacks, a T-shirt, and credentials. The commitment runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Walesa at La Casa to sign up or for more information at 415-503-0500, ext. 304, or email her at [Walesa@lacasa.org](mailto:Walesa@lacasa.org).

—Heather World

## Low-Cost Classes at CMC

If you're looking for an inexpensive venue to take singing lessons or learn to play a musical instrument, check out the Community Music Center in the Mission District.

The nonprofit institution, which also has a branch in the Richmond District, will host classes this fall for students of all ages, from 4 on up.

The next three-month session runs Sept. 9 through Dec. 6. New student registration began Sept. 1, but will continue through the first day of class (call for an appointment). Tuition is based on a sliding scale, with scholarships available for some youth classes.

"This is a place where anyone can feel comfortable walking through the door, come as you are, and learn here. We've never turned anyone away for lack of funds," says Sonia Calvetti, the center's marketing director.

Founded in 1921, Community Music Center boasts a student roster that once included legendary vocalist Johnny Mathias, chanteuse Paula West, opera diva Lucine Amara, and symphonic composer Nathaniel Stookey.

Classes range from private instrument and voice to group ensembles. You can take jazz guitar or classical piano, or pick up the tuba, clarinet, violin, or banjo, to just name a few of the instruments taught.

Calvetti says the center also has several free programs, including a children's chorus for kids 8 to 12, and a free teen jazz band. In addition, CMC and the San-

Francisco public schools sponsor a scholarship program for middle and high school students.

Classes in the Mission are held at 544 Capp Street; phone 415-647-6015. Visit [www.sfbco.org](http://www.sfbco.org) for more information.

—Corrie M. Anders

## Riveting Rosies Rock the Boat

Hill Street's Peter Maleitzke, who led the orchestra at San Francisco's *Phantom of the Opera* for eight years, is busy conducting another riveting show this fall.

Maleitzke is the musical director for *Rivets*, a new production about women entering the workforce during World War II, which opened Labor Day weekend and runs through Sept. 27.

*Rivets* is being staged aboard the SS *Red Oak Victory* at the site of the historic Kaiser Richmond Shipyards. The musical, written and composed by Kathryn McCarty and Mitchell Covington, revolves around the female workers nicknamed "Rosie the Riveter" and "Wendy the Welder" who helped build ships while most of the men were at war.

"Stories told in the cannon of American musical theatre, from *Showboat* to *Carousel* to *Chorus Line* to *Rivets*, [can] educate and illuminate audiences...in the most entertaining way, about who we are and who we want to be," says Maleitzke.

The 18-year Noe Valley resident has worked with many prestigious San Francisco theater and opera houses. He also did an 11-year stint at the American Conservatory of Music (ACT).

For *Rivets*, the *Red Oak Victory* ship is berthed at 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 6A, across the Bay in Richmond. Curtains go up Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m., with Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. on Sept. 12, 19, and 26.

A general admission ticket is \$20; \$15

for seniors and students. Admission for "Rosies," World War II veterans, and uniformed military personnel is free. There is a \$2 discount if you make a donation to Blue Star Moms, a group sends holiday care packages to U.S. soldiers.

For additional ticket information, contact the box office at 925-676-5705 or visit [galateamplayers.com](http://galateamplayers.com).

—Corrie M. Anders

## Classic Yoga Is Expanding

Local yoga teacher Marcel Allbritton will be stretching this fall, as he expands his neighborhood class offerings to the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street.

Starting Sept. 8, Allbritton will offer Classic Yoga classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at 1021 Sanchez Street.

"Classic Yoga is a gentle form of yoga taught in the style of T.K.V. Desikachar," says Allbritton. Focusing on awareness, conscious breathing, and simple body movements, this type of yoga is fine for beginners and for people in their mid to later years, he says.

Allbritton, who lives in the Mission District, teaches a similar yoga class on Friday and Saturday mornings, 9 to 10 a.m., at Sanchez Street Studios, 1589 Sanchez at 29th Street.

Also, for the past year and a half, he has taught yoga to social workers and homeless women at the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center. An expert in both yoga and yoga therapy, Allbritton has traveled to India to pursue studies in the field.

The cost for a drop-in class is \$14, for four classes \$52, and for eight \$96.

If you need more details, call Allbritton at 415-200-9825 or visit [www.classicyoga.net](http://www.classicyoga.net). His email address is [marcel@mindbodyfoundation.org](mailto:marcel@mindbodyfoundation.org).

—Sally Smith

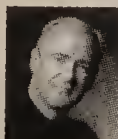
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# STORE TREK

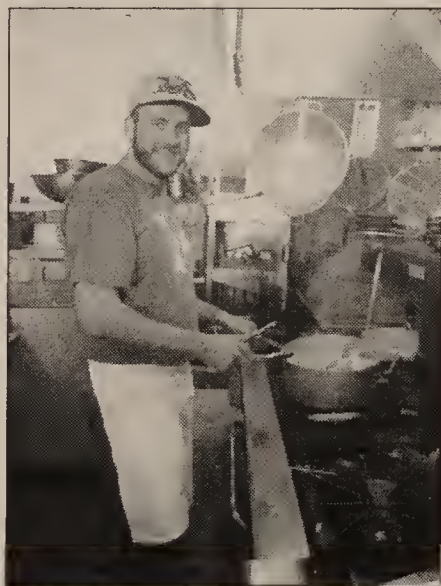
By Olivia Boler

**S**ore Trek is a regular feature of the *Noe Valley Voice*, profiling new shops and restaurants in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a boutique specializing in recycled jewelry, clothing, and art; and a cafe whose chef is adding unique flavors to traditional comfort-food recipes.

**BISTRO 24**  
4123 24th Street at Castro Street  
415-285-2400  
www.bistro24sf.com

The culinary "hot potato" has been tossed into the air once again at 4123 24th Street. After two months as sous-chef at the popular Contigo on Castro Street, Pierre Mangé is now executive chef and co-owner of Bistro 24, which replaced the short-lived City Grill on July 1. Stefano Coppola, who helmed City Grill (and who also owns Lupa Trattoria next door), is a partner with Mangé. The cafe, on 24th above Castro, has a storied history. It was home to Kookez (2006-08), Miss Millie's, and the Meat Market Coffeehouse.

For Mangé, 27, accepting the challenge at Bistro 24 was a no-brainer. He's always wanted his own cafe, and he lives just three blocks from the restaurant. When he heard that City Grill was for



Chef Pierre Mangé brings his personal touch to the "new American" food at Bistro 24. The restaurant space was once occupied by City Grill, Kookez, and the infamous Meat Market. Photos by Pamela Gerard

sale, he quickly got in touch with Coppola.

"I like the neighborhood a lot," says Mangé. "I fell in love with it when I started working at Contigo. You see your neighbors all the time. It's great." Before Contigo, he worked at Chow in Lafayette and SPQR on Fillmore Street.

Mangé describes Bistro 24's menu as "new American comfort food with a twist." For example, there's a BLT-type sandwich, but it's made with foie gras instead of bacon. Another hearty standby is potpie—made with rabbit.

Mangé cooks with local, organic, and sustainable products, so the menu will change with the seasons, but he promises there will be staples like fried chicken served with sweet corn custard and coleslaw, and baked macaroni and cheese. Small plates are \$6 to \$11, and entrees top out at \$20. Among the latter on a recent menu were pan-seared halibut with squash and local greens, grilled Strawberry Mountain flank steak with fries and heirloom tomatoes, and grass-fed lamb chops with squash, arugula, and gypsy peppers. Smaller dishes included Anson Mills grits, fried green tomatoes, and a fennel salad with strawberries and black olives.

Mangé is also excited about his wine list, which he calls "expansive. There are wines from all over the world—Italy, Spain, France, California—and some that are hard to find in your grocery store." He points out a Verdejo from Spain and a Verdelhos from Portugal, a French Cote du Rhone Bordeaux, and some small California estate wines. He's also working on getting some good local beers on tap.

While the restaurant is family-friendly, Mangé admits that the vibe is geared toward a "younger adult crew." To that end, the interior has been painted in rich chocolate browns, burgundy, and cream. No real structural changes were made, but Mangé and Coppola did add some scones and removed some of the faux wood paneling. "We've darkened the colors, but we've also warmed the space."

The art on the walls is by local artists and is all for sale. "We're going to rotate the art once a month and host receptions, like a gallery," Mangé encourages artists who would like to show their art to contact the restaurant.

"In a few weeks down the road," he says, the restaurant will start serving weekend brunch.

For now, Bistro 24 is open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday from 5:30 p.m. until 10 or later. Late-night diners are welcome.

**SUCCESSORIES IN THE  
BUTTON BOX**  
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After a stint inside Lisa Violetto's store, jewelry artist and button collector Pamela Wiston-Charbonneau has put down roots on 24th Street in Rose Quartz' old spot, a few doors up from Sanchez Street. The 200-square-foot space was briefly occupied by the Jewelry Box, and Wiston-Charbonneau proudly points out that she has reused the former boutique's red awning for her own shop.

"We added some decorations and just redid the lettering," she says, pointing out the Successories sign from her previous business, Successories in the Caboose, which was located in Pacifica on Highway 1. (And yes, it was in a little red caboose.) Wiston-Charbonneau still lives in Pacifica with her family, but feels a definite connection to Noe Valley, where she lived for many years.

The new shop, dubbed Successories in the Button Box, carries Wiston-Charbonneau's signature line of jewelry, which she makes primarily from antique buttons. There are button rings, earrings, and pendants, and every piece is set in sterling silver or gold-plated using 22-karat gold. The price depends on the rarity of the button. For example, a Pierrot and Pierrette button ring is \$120, while a more common cufflink ring is \$58. Engraving is free, and Wiston-Charbonneau will gladly create a custom design.

The store also carries jewelry by local artisans such as Prisca Bonati, who used to own the Designers' Club clothing store on 24th Street. On offer are circular pendants (with depictions of nature) that can double as a place to keep—and not lose—one's reading glasses. Other showcased designers are Dance of the Ancestors, which makes embroidered bags and jewelry, and Shadows.

"I call the store Successories because for many years I've represented underdog designers who have gone on to become successful," Wiston-Charbonneau says.

Customers will find a selection of new and retro clothing, including dresses, jackets, and sweaters—"just in time for back-to-school this fall," jokes Wiston-Charbonneau. Also featured at the shop are bags and carryalls by Lenore, made



Owner Pamela Wiston-Charbonneau offers new, retro, and repurposed items at Successories in the Button Box, located on 24th Street near the corner of Sanchez.

from woven strips of newspapers. President Obama's smiling visage decorates one bag, selling for \$88. Some dresses are works of art pieced from pre-worn fabrics, and a line called Buttons and Cashmere offers fingerless gloves made from the sleeves of repurposed sweaters. Prices for Successories' clothing, jewelry, and "baubles" range from \$10 to the low \$100s; the average hovers around \$65.

Clearly, vintage and reused objects are near and dear to Wiston-Charbonneau's heart. "Everything in the store has been reworked in some way," she says, including the paint she used to create the sky-blue "cloud" enhanced ceiling and walls.

Successories will host a trunk show once a month featuring local designers. Prisca Bonati will be spotlighted in September (check the website or stop by the store for the exact date).

The shop opened its doors in mid-June, but the official grand opening will take place over three days in October, from the 9th to 11th. There will be live music, prizes, and refreshments in the form of "tricks and treats, since it'll be closer to Halloween," says Wiston-Charbonneau. The band Curios has been lined up for Oct. 10, 4 to 7 p.m.

Successories in the Button Box is open every day: Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

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# Noe Valley Skies



A firefighter prepares to climb to quell a blaze on 25th Street in July.

Photo by Michael Capozzola



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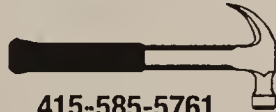
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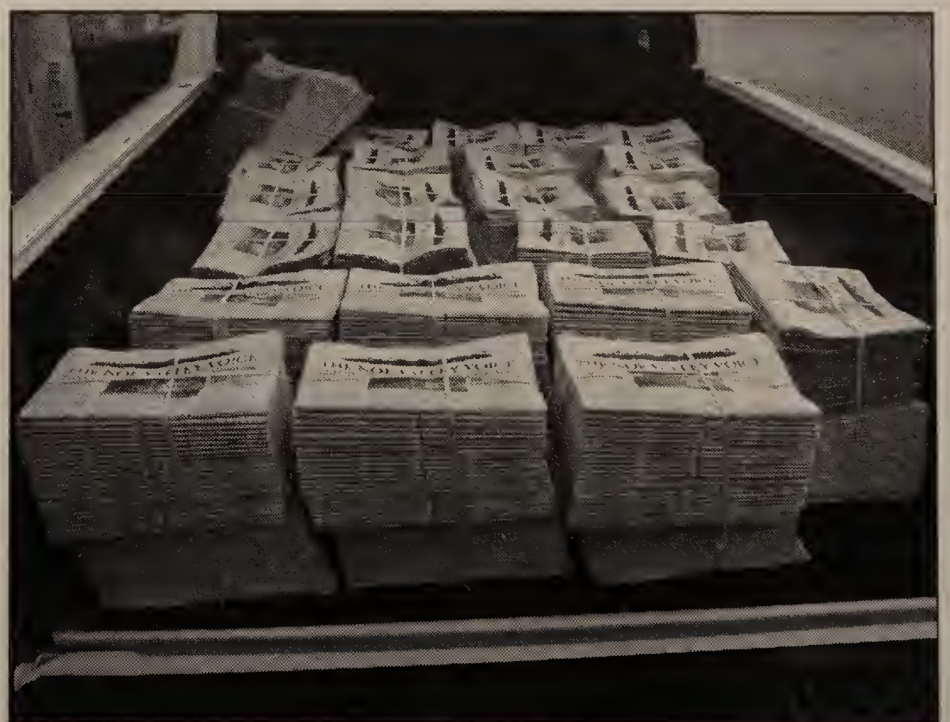
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## Our Readers Write

Top photo: Newly-weds **Alisha Graves** and **Paul Lloyd** can't resist reading their hometown paper even with the "fairy chimneys" of Turkey's Cappadocia region in the background.

Left: **Carrie Friedberg** and **Trishan Arul** took a recession worthy vacation by traveling to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. They joined up with Carrie's niece **Oakley Anslinger** being toted by Carrie's camera-shy dad, **Michael Friedberg**.

Below: **Pauline Laidlaw** catches up on Noe Valley doings from her home town of Edinburgh, Scotland. A frequent visitor to San Francisco, she favors the breakfast at Joe's Cafe and the chocolate brownies from Noe Valley Bakery while visiting her son **Keith Laidlaw** and his wife **Kim**.





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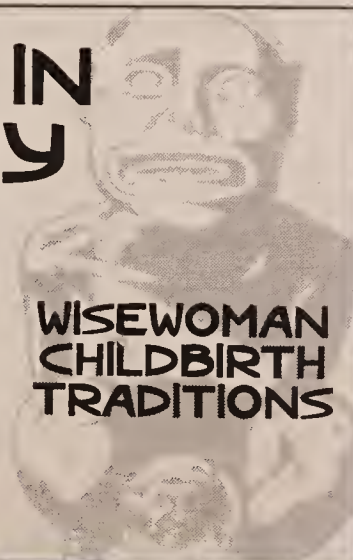
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# SCHOOL REPORT

This month we dug up some news about James Lick Middle School that might start your mouth watering.

## What's Black and White and a Little Bit Greener?

By Heidi Anderson

It's September, so the kids at James Lick in their trademark white shirts and black pants have trooped back for another year of reading, writing, algebra, dance class, art, and—beginning this year—gardening.

Thanks to the efforts of several community members—including the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, James Lick staff and parents, and “team members” from the soon-to-be-opened Whole Foods Market on 24th Street—a series of raised-bed gardens will be installed at the school this fall.

Principal Bitá Nazarian says she is thrilled about the garden plots, which will be tended by the student farmers. “I’m really excited. This will be a perfect

new project for our students. They’ll get science and health lessons, and see their efforts turn into food they can eat.”

Peter Gabel, who was instrumental in establishing the Saturday Farmers' Market (in the Noe Valley Ministry parking lot on 24th Street) and whose son is now in eighth grade at James Lick, is one of the organizers of the school garden project. He says he’s always wanted to expand the Farmers' Market idea beyond the lot.

“It’s only natural to extend the idea of gathering to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables to the neighborhood’s public school,” says Gabel, who lives on Elizabeth Street.

He hopes that James Lick’s garden produce may one day be on sale in a stall at the market and that neighbors can then buy their salad makings from students they know. The garden could be a great way for the middle-school kids to connect with the surrounding Noe Valley community, he says.

Leslie Crawford, a 24th Street resident who worked alongside Gabel to create the Farmers' Market, agrees.

“When I was 11 years old, I was part of a group of kids at a community center who got a 10-by-10-foot plot of land and were taught to garden. It changed my life,” says Crawford. She grew a lot of zucchini that year, and has never forgotten the joy of the experience.

Crawford approached James Lick a few years ago with the garden idea, but it didn’t take shape.

“It didn’t seem like the right time, but we started talking about it last year, and everything’s coming together.”

Crawford and Gabel have put together an impressive list of community partners, each of whom will have a hand in the garden: the California Culinary Academy, the Noe Valley Farmers Market, Rebuilding Together SF, the school district’s Green Schoolyard Alliance, the Whole Foods Noe Valley store team, and, of course, James Lick staff, students, and families.

Rebuilding Together is already at work creating the wooden raised beds (eight of them, two feet high and 8-by-10 in size) that are set to be installed in mid-September on the upper yard near the gym entrance.

In a couple of weeks, a farmer from Hidden Star Orchards, a longtime Farmers' Market presence, will be bringing apples and an apple peeler to teach the seventh-graders in Mr. Longnecker’s science class how to peel them.

“I’m hoping they’ll get excited about gardening,” says Crawford.

Soon, Longnecker’s class will be planting and maintaining a few winter-friendly crops, such as lettuce, kale, broccoli, or carrots, and maybe even some

flowers. And then the kids will watch them grow.

Crawford and Gabel have secured some funds already, have promises from various partners for support in the future, and will of course do more fundraising to keep the project going. But what the garden needs is a person to tend it over time.

“We really need someone who is passionate about gardening and the Noe community to come in a few hours a week to make sure it’s cared for, and help Mr. Longnecker out a bit,” says Crawford.

If you’d like to get involved, call the school at 695-5675 and ask for Principal Nazarian or Marilyn Koral. ■

### SCHOOL CONTACTS

**James Lick Middle School**  
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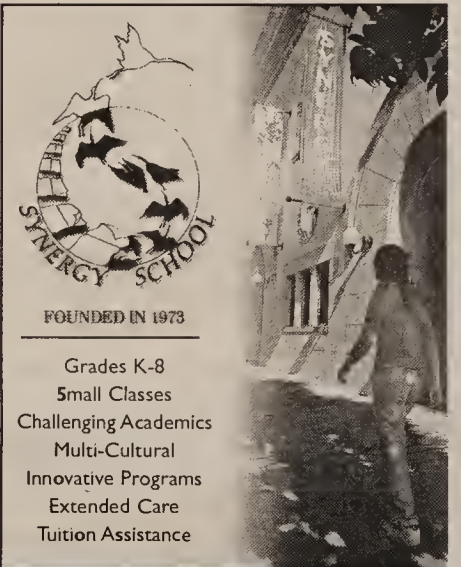
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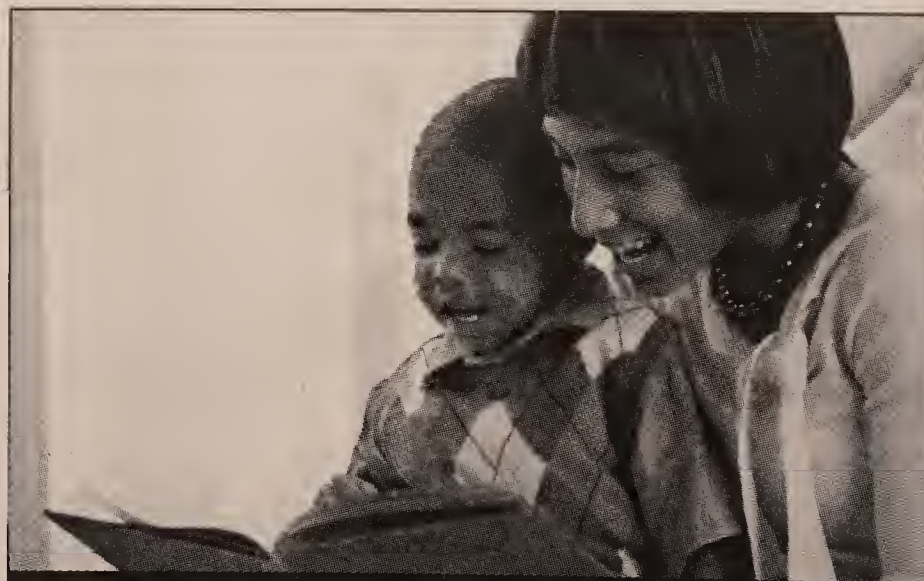
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**End of Summer.** Noe Valley girls (from left) Maxima Alexandra, sister Oona Alexandra and pal Sophie Hogan-Cytron enjoy the shade of a warm Friday afternoon on 24th Street. By now they're back in school.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

## How are you doing with your New Year's Resolutions?

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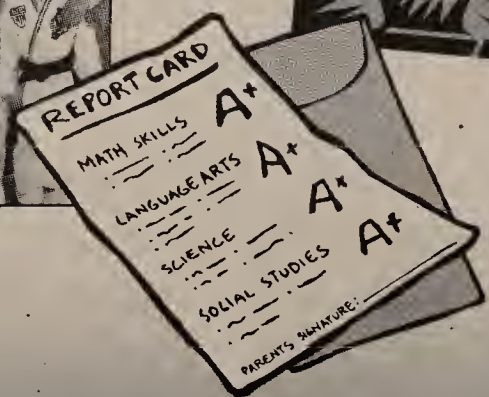


*Muscle & Fitness Magazine* recently rated aerobic kickboxing as the #1 workout for weight loss.  
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# MORE BOOKS TO READ

## Increase Your Skill Sets

Would you like to learn how to draw Cyclops? Or get your hands on the formula for a perfect bread dough or soup stock? You can find out these secrets by checking out two of the books listed below, which are among the new acquisitions at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street. The branch is open for business six days a week. And when it's closed (Mondays), you can log on to [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org) to nab your favorites. For information about Noe Valley Library events, call Branch Manager Alice McCloud at 415-355-5707.

### Children's Fiction

- Sam the mouse writes little books and leaves them on the library shelves for children to find, in Daniel Kirk's *Library Mouse: A Friend's Tale*. Ages 3 to 5.
- Written in both English and Spanish, *Book Fiesta: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day* is a picture book by Pat Mora that helps kids have fun reading, especially on Book Day, April 30, which is also Mexico's Day of the Child. Ages 4 to 6.
- In James Howe's *Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time*, a dog who plays the cello and a cat who plays the clarinet get ready for a concert despite the big snowstorm outside. Ages 5 to 7.
- Third-grader Fran learns how to stop being bossy on the playground when she takes her Newfoundland puppy to obedience school, in *Puppy Power* by Judy Cox. Ages 6 to 8.
- In *Samuel Blink and the Runaway Troll*, Matt Haig continues the story of Samuel and Martha and the trolls who live in a nearby forest in Norway. Ages 10 and up.

### Children's Nonfiction

- Cartoonist Christopher Hart offers a crash course in *Drawing Wizards, Witches, and Warlocks*, not to mention ogres, Cyclopes, dragons, angels, and goblins. Ages 5 and up.

Books selected by Children's Librarian Carol Small

## LIBRARY EVENTS

### Baby Massage

- Certified massage teacher Paule Dominique invites you and baby, age 3 weeks to crawling, to learn about *Infant Massage* on Thursday, Sept. 24, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Please bring a mat or blanket. Massage oil will be supplied. The event is in the downstairs meeting room at the library.

### Carol Small Retirement Party

- The library invites you come wish Children's Librarian Carol Small a fond farewell on Friday, Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m.

### Book Discussion Group

- The *Noe Valley Book Group* meets this month on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7 to 8:45 p.m.

### Toddler Tales and Story Time

- *Toddler Tales* unfolds on Tuesdays, Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, from 10:15 to 11 a.m. *Family Story Time* follows from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Call 355-5707 to confirm, since a new children's librarian may be arriving at the branch.

All events take place at 451 Jersey Street.

### Adult Fiction

- In the final installment of the Sailor and Lula saga, beginning with *Wild at Heart*, Barry Gifford's *Imagination of the Heart* brings 80-year-old Lula back to post-Katrina New Orleans to visit her son.
- An investigation into a college prank gone wrong changes the present-day lives of four friends who had formed an art group that committed acts of sabotage, in *Dismantled* by Jennifer McMahon.

### Adult Nonfiction

- Richard Brodie's *Virus of the Mind: The New Science of the Meme* explores how the media, advertising, and politicians use viral communications to manipulate attitudes and behavior.
- In *Righteous Dopefiend*, anthropologists Philippe Bourgois and Jeffrey Schonberg examine a group of homeless heroin addicts in San Francisco through case studies, field notes, personal narratives, and photos.
- *Cooperstown Confidential: Heroes, Rogues, and the Inside Story of the Baseball Hall of Fame*, by Zev Chafets, explores the history and players of the game.
- In *Ratio: The Simple Codes Behind the Craft of Everyday Cooking*, Michael Ruhlman explains the formulas for successful doughs, stocks, sausages, custards, and sauces.
- Barney Hoskyns' *Lowside of the Road: A Life of Tom Waits* traces the 40-year career of an eccentric singer/songwriter.
- To cut calories while eating out or grocery shopping, *Men's Health* editors David Zincenko and Matt Goulding urge *Eat This, Not That! The Best (and Worst!) Foods in America*.

Annotations by Karol Barske, of the Voice staff

## BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5		10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616 (Closed for renovation. Events held at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St.)						
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	10-6	10-6	12-8	1-7	1-6	1-6
Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	1-9	10-9	10-9	10-6	1-6	10-6

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59	R	I	S	K	Y		60	N	E	R	O	67	T	R	E	S	

320

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**cover** *kāv'ər*, *kāv'ə-lit'* *n.* A lustreous midgo-blue rock, esp. a major copper ore. *After Nicolo Ferrari* (1911-1829) Italian mineralogist. *See covellite.*  
**cover** *kāv'ər* *n.* 1. A binding agreement, a compact, or a document, esp. an engineering or contract. 2. In law, a document for violation of such a contract. 3. In the Bible, God's promise to the human race, esp. by a covenant. 4. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 5. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 6. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 7. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 8. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 9. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 10. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 11. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 12. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 13. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 14. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 15. A name for a person or thing, esp. a part of a machine. 16. 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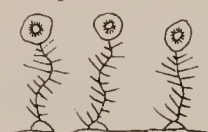
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**10 for 10 discount:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues:

The next *Voice* will be the October 2009 issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of October.

**The deadline for Class Ads is Sept. 15.** Note: The issue will be displayed for one month on our website: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

Advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of their ad (not to exceed one line) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. Thank you for your support.

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**Go Get Em, Matt!** After a July article in the *Chronicle* identified Matt Cain as a Noe Valley resident, there were many more local sightings of the Giants' ace pitcher, including this one

on a billboard at Jersey and Castro streets. The *Voice* asked Cain for an interview, but he said he was a tad busy. Something about a wild card race, or did he just say, "Beat Dodgers!"?

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Dubai, Knightsbridge, and Noe Valley

By Mazook

The international news agency Reuters rocked Noe Valley's chocolate world this summer when it reported July 21 that "Dubai's Al Nassma, the world's first brand of chocolate made with camel's milk, is in talks to expand into new Arab markets, Europe, Japan, and the United States. Al Nassma is also in talks with British department store Harrods and San Francisco's Chocolate Covered to sell its products."

Say what?

Jack Epstein, owner of Chocolate Covered at 24th and Castro, says, "I was quite surprised by the news, since while we were 'in talks' at the time, I had frankly not yet decided if I would carry their brand, and I was leaning towards 'no.'

"However, when I saw that I was next to Harrods in the story, I decided that I should go with it, and placed an order for shipment of five different flavors. They are flown in directly from Dubai to San Francisco and then delivered to my store," he says.

The 70-gram bar costs a mere 12 dollars and comes in plain milk chocolate, spicy chocolate ("Arabia"), one with dates, another with macadamia nuts, and a dark (70 percent) chocolate.

Epstein says that it was not long before he was getting calls from all over the United States, from those who wanted to place

orders. "I am almost sold out of the first shipment, but expect another shipment to arrive very soon."

The chocolate bars are being touted by Al Nassma, according to Reuters, as containing "five times more Vitamin C than cow's milk" candy bars. The company also claims the camel's milk is "less fat, less lactose, and more insulin, making it a good option for diabetics and those who are lactose intolerant."

According to Epstein, Al Nassma has a 3,000-camel farm where the milk is gathered, then it is processed into powder and shipped to Vienna, where it is mixed with honey, spices, and nuts, then shipped back to Dubai. "The transportation costs alone," says Epstein, "are between two and three dollars a bar."

According to the Reuters report, Al Nassma, founded last year, is owned by Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum.

Sounds like the sheikh and his people did their worldwide demographics to determine demand for their chocolate products, and decided to start with London's Knightsbridge neighborhood and in the U.S., Noe Valley.



**CIRCLING OF THE GREEN:** The distinctive demographics of Noe Valley have led Circle Bank—a small Marin bank headquartered in Novato, with branches in San Rafael, Santa Rosa, and Petaluma—to vie to open its fifth branch in Noe Valley. Circle Bank, privately owned, is one of the very few banks that make loans on tenancy-in-common ownership properties (TICs), of which there are many in San Francisco. Circle also specializes in small business loans.

"We have a strong client base in San Francisco," says Erick Kostuchek, vice president and branch administrator, "and particularly in Noe Valley."

According to Kostuchek, the bank hopes to lease space in two of the vacant storefronts near Whole Foods Market. One is Noe Valley Video's old spot, and the other is the space just vacated by Ave-da (see next page). The bank is currently going through the federal, state, and local red tape (including obtaining a conditional use permit from City Planning). Kostuchek could give no estimate of when the bank would be good to go.

By the way, Kostuchek is no stranger to the neighborhood. "I spent a lot of time visiting my grandmother on Fair Oaks and on 24th Street during the late '70s and early '80s."

Neighborhood demographics also played a role in the decision of Bettina Limaco and her husband Marco Pietschmann to take over the space once occupied by Ritz Camera (3980 24th near Noe). The couple will open Green 11, featuring bulk sales of organic bath and cleaning products.

"We currently have a very small space on Union Street and wanted to open a second store," says Limaco, "and Noe Valley has the perfect demographics and store space for retailing our products." Their inventory includes shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, lotion, soap bars, liquid soap, kitchen cleaners, bath cleaners, and soaps for laundry and pets.

Green 11 customers will be able to bring in their own containers to fill and refill. "These are high-quality organic products which the customer will find more affordable, and be able to control the quantity of what they purchase," Limaco says. Green 11 will also supply empty starter containers.

Limaco says the store will have a "soft opening" sometime in mid-September.



**BETWEEN A DEEP AND A SOFT PLACE:** A soft opening on Aug. 26 is the

way brothers Mark and Mel Mendaros chose to introduce the neighborhood to Deep Restaurant, which now occupies the space on Church near Day, formerly known as Deep Sushi.

The Mendaros, according to Mark, are introducing "a modern Izakaya menu," which in Japan features sushi and other small dishes that are served to complement the beers and saki. "We have hired Thomas Weibull, who was chef at Plouf [the seafood bistro in the Financial District], and put together a fabulous menu with a variety dishes," priced at \$5 to \$12.

Mark is excited about opening Deep in his neighborhood—he, his wife, and child live on Diamond Street and are encouraged by the favorable response the restaurant has already had from local residents.

To update the updates, Scott McDonald reports that Noeteca Café and Wine Bar on Dolores Street will have its own "soft opening" on Sept. 9. As you Rumors readers know, Noeteca tried to open in March but was delayed by a seemingly endless permit process. McDonald says the "final-final" is expected during the first week of September and then the doors will softly open.

And finally, after 10 months of promoting itself at 24th and Sanchez, soft-serve frozen yogurt made a "hard opening" Aug. 8 at Belgano, which appears also to have changed its name to Noe Tuttimelon. The yogurt's arrival was announced by banners and flyers, and included free samples for the first 500 who showed up, besides prizes and a raffle. The shop will still sell gelato, cupcakes, and Leonidas chocolates, but the main attraction now seems to be the "fro-yo."

Two flavors of yogurt are swirling out of the machines: "original tart" (\$2.50 for a small) and blueberry, which is a tad sweeter, the server says. For 99 cents

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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

more, you can add toppings, like mandarin oranges, chocolate chips, kiwis, raspberries, gummy bears, granola, M&Ms, Captain Crunch, and Fruity Pebbles. According to Tuttimelon's website, "Our yogurt contains probiotic, and the live and active culture count exceeds eight times the National Yogurt Association's requirement."



**THE CHANGING OF THE GARDENERS:** Glen Potter and his partner Steve Bacik, longtime owners of the floratorium Accent on Flowers at 24th and Castro, have sold the business to Yuliya Labunsky, who also owns Flowers of the Valley across the street.

"I'm 79 years old, and it is time for me to retire," says Potter. Potter and Bacik, who live in Noe Valley on 26th Street, took over Accent in 1973. "I was a banker and Steve had always been a florist, and at one time we also had shops on Mission and then Nob Hill." Bacik is still working in the shop and Potter is still doing the deliveries.

According to Labunsky, Accent on Flowers will now carry "more garden stuff, like potted plants, garden tools, soil, pots, and plant food, in addition to the fresh-cut flowers and our FTD and Teleflora services."

Labunsky took over Flowers of the Valley last year (after it had been opened seven years ago by Andrei and Natasha Tchesnokova). She first arrived in San Francisco in 1998 from Odessa in Ukraine, where she worked with her fam-

ily on "a small, 15-hectare rose farm."

In other gardening news, it looks like the Church Street vintage jewelry and furniture store When Modern Was has rented out the garage portion of the space and the back yard to Susan Prentice. On or around Sept. 21, Prentice will open a full-service plant nursery called Independent Nature. She'll be selling potted plants, trees, decorative pots, garden accessories and edibles grown in the outdoor garden, where she'll also teach organic gardening. Prentice currently teaches at Fort Mason and is a beekeeper, and yes, she will be selling honey from her bees in season. She and her neighboring stores at Church and 27th will have a sidewalk sale Oct. 3.

Many of you will remember that the WMW garage, which is next to Eric's Restaurant, is the same spot that housed the popular Mia's Flowers from '91 to '05.



**THE BIRDS AND THE BARKS:** The changing of the guard at Accent on Flowers has created somewhat of a dilemma for Potter, Bacik, and Labunsky. It seems that Sidney Bird, the store pet for the past 20 years, does not want to leave. Potter says his African Grey Parrot is "not too happy at home and wants to go to the store, so we have left Sidney there."

Sidney has made many friends who have patronized Accent over the years, and he/she ("We don't know if Sidney is a boy or a girl," says Bacik) is quite talkative and able to express what is on her/his mind. "Sidney becomes very quiet when at home, which is not normal and quite happy at the shop," says Potter, "so we will just have to wait and see what happens."

Just for Fun at 24th and Noe has two new store pets: Clipsie Anne and Tarkeena, two female Shetland Sheepdog puppies (shelties), who are now 12 weeks old. They join sheltie Rabadash, 9, and

Tommy, a 10-year-old standard poodle. You all might remember that Just for Fun was one of the first stores in Downtown Noe Valley to have a "store pet." For over 10 years, the dog behind the counter was a sheltie named Digory. Digory passed away last fall.

"The puppies are having the greatest time greeting all of our customers," says Just for Fun co-owner David Eiland.



**MANI FORTUNES:** Noe Valley Day Glow Spa is the newest entry in the neighborhood's gaggle of nail salons, which seem to outnumber the existing corner grocery stores.

The Day Glow Spa is opening (or already has by the time you read this) at 4023 24th Street, in the space formerly occupied by the Wells Fargo minibank.

Services at the spa, says owner Gwen Holcrist, will include manicures and pedicures, waxing, makeup, spray-tanning, and facials. Holcrist moved (back) to San Francisco this spring from Drogheda, Ireland (a suburb of Dublin), where she operates another day spa called the Red Door.

"It is a long commute," she says, "but I have a very good crew of managers there, so I can split my time between San Francisco and Ireland."

Holcrist used to live in San Francisco in the early 1990s, but moved back to Ireland to start her day spa business. "It became very popular," she says. "But I was missing San Francisco, so I moved back here last April. I really like this neighborhood, which gives me very good feelings, especially from all the people who have popped their head into the new shop to ask what is coming in and to wish me well."

While there is much competition among neighborhood nail salons, it appears that the first fortune teller in more than 10 years has opened a shop in Downtown Noe Valley, at 4010 24th Street. Which, to all of you economic prognosticators, could mean that someone who can tell the future has confidence in the fortunes of our commercial strip.

The fortune-telling Nina—she only goes by one name—says she moved here, with her sister Marie, from Fisherman's Wharf, "because this is such a beautiful neighborhood and it is so peaceful." The sisters opened their doors at the end of August and say they have "a few walk-ins every day." Services offered include "palm, tarot card, aura, psychic, and energy balance readings of the past, present, and future." The business hours are from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and most of the readings will cost \$65, but you can get your palm read for 20 bucks. Good luck!



**IN OTHER STORED-UP NEWS:** Rumors were circulating last month that a veterinarian had his eye on the closed Streetlight Records space. Owner Robert Fallon's real estate agent, Mark Kaplan of Rockwell Properties, would neither confirm nor deny any such rumor.

"The owner, however, has pulled the commercial store off the rental market, and has decided to sell the building," said Kaplan in late August. The asking price is a cool \$2.2 million, and Kaplan says he is currently negotiating a sale, but refused to comment on who that potential buyer might be.

As for the fate of the storefront recently vacated by Phoenix Books on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg, according to Realtor Sue Bowie, the building is currently on the market for sale, although she refused to say for how much. However, Bowie did say that she is willing to enter into a commercial lease for the store "if a tenant is interested." Rent? "That is negotiable," said the tight-lipped Bowie. She said any interested tenant

should call her for details: 415-642-4000.

As mentioned previously, the Noe Valley Aveda outlet was set to close at the end of August. Nobody at the store wanted to talk about it. Said the store manager (who refused to identify herself), "I don't really want to talk about it, but we are all very sad the store is closing." That space might become half a Circle Bank.

It looks like there are no takers for Andiamo Deli (corner of Diamond and Elizabeth) and the "For Sale" sign has been changed to "For Rent."



**NOTED NOE VALLEYANS:** San Francisco Giants pitcher Matt Cain has appeared in Noe Valley larger than life on the billboard at the corner of Jersey and Castro. He also has been frequently seen in normal size, shopping on 24th Street or walking his dog in Upper Noe Valley.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* ran a feature on Sunday, July 26, by Meredith May, about Cain and his move to Noe Valley with his fiancée, Chelsea Williams.

Quoting Cain, May reported: "They chose Noe Valley, he said, because it was a neighborhood of young people and kids with a small-town feel, and there's a dog park within walking distance where they can take his lab, Cali, and her cocker spaniel, Tater."

Said Cain, "It's simple here—we'll go to 24th Street and people will stop me and say hi, but they aren't in your face about it."

Our attempts to reach Cain were unsuccessful, and it appears we will have to wait to interview the hometown boy until after the team wins the World Series.

Kudos go out to Noe Valleyan and former Friends of Noe Valley president Jeannene Przyblyski, who has just been appointed Dean of Academic Affairs at the San Francisco Art Institute, where she has been a tenured faculty member for many years. She has taught in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and chairs the program at SFAI in History and Theory of Contemporary Art.

"I hope Noe Valleyans will take advantage of the many free programs at SFAI, and attend one of the many exhibitions we have at the school," she says.

Przyblyski has been in the local press this summer regarding her resignation from the San Francisco Arts Commission. She was appointed in 2004, and served on the 15-member commission's Executive Committee, besides chairing both the Civic Design Review and the Visual Arts Committee.

Evidently, several members of the commission, including Przyblyski, were upset over new rules proposed by Supervisor Chris Daly that would require commissioners, who work as volunteers, to provide financial statements on all sources of income. "If I would have known that the financial reporting requirement was going to become equivalent to that of an elected official, I would have been working instead to run for supervisor," she says.

Oh, and no she is not running for supervisor. "I have a lot to do at SFAI," laughs Przyblyski.



**THAT'S ALL, YOU ALL.** Before I go, congratulations to the many Noe Valley businesses that made this year's *San Francisco Bay Guardian* "Best of the Bay": Ambiance, the Ark, Lovejoy's, Cooks Boulevard, Drewes Brothers Meats, Just Awesome, Natural Resources, Peekabootique, Rabat, and Shoe Biz (and Noe Valley icon Ruth Asawa was named Best Artist).

Remember, think global but shop local. Ciao for now.

## ON 24TH STREET

### Does Noe Valley Have a Style?

By Shayna Rubin

*On Saturday, Aug. 8, I stood in front of Hill and Company at the corner of Sanchez and 24th streets and asked the question: "Do you think Noe Valley has a style? If so, what is it?" Here are some of the ways people responded:*

**Noah Ruffell of Duncan Street:** Noe Valley has a young family style going for it. There are a lot of strollers. The other neighborhoods have gimmicks. Noe Valley is the closest thing to suburbia. It's laid-back.



**Letitia Bartlett of 24th Street:** The Noe Valley Style is casual, smart, and informed. It is also very dog-friendly. Noe Valley is a working-class neighborhood, but the working class have more money.



**Cynthia Gregory of Duncan Street:** Noe Valley is casual. There's a lot of maternity wear, a lot of pregnant people. Noe Valley's style has a comfortable feel.



**Craig Domeny and Charlotte Makoff, and Caramel, of Church Street:** Noe Valley is very eclectic and socially sensitive. It is very yuppie, but not recession-proof.



**Karen Joffe and Carrie Wallen of Elizabeth Street:** Noe Valley's style is family-friendly. It is baby central. Noe Valley is not hip or young, but it is very family-oriented.



**Mike Curtis of 24th Street:** The Noe Valley style is independent. The people here feel that they don't want to lose their youth now that they have kids.



**Kurt Smith of 24th Street:** I just moved to Noe Valley, and I can see that it definitely has a style. There are a lot of kids. Noe Valley has a trendy family style. The style is different a couple blocks down 24th than it is, a couple blocks up. The Mission is more trendy than Noe Valley."

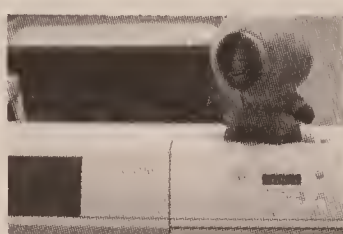
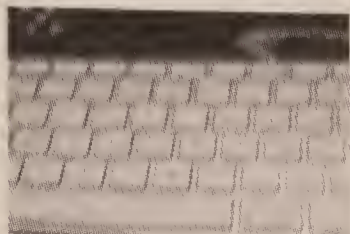


**Dan Wallis of Alvarado Street:** The Noe Valley style is very cosmopolitan, worldly, relaxed, and civilized. There's a lively buzz about it. Noe Valley is complete. It has everything you could possibly want in a neighborhood. Also, Noe Valley is not discriminatory. You don't have to be a particular type of person to live here.

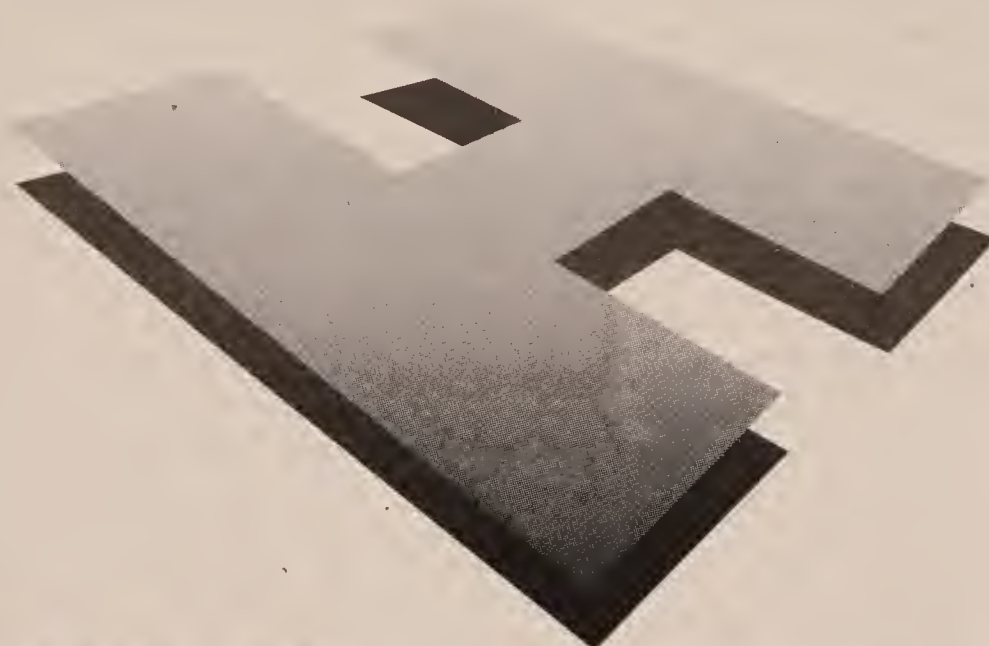


*Sanchez Street resident Shayna Rubin is a senior at the Urban School of San Francisco.*





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Email: [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
Meetings: Second Thursday, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Castro Farmers' Market**

Wednesdays, 4 to 8 p.m., on Noe between Market and Beaver  
Sponsor: Merchants of Upper Market & Castro; [www.CastroMerchants.com](http://www.CastroMerchants.com)

**Church Street Professionals**

Contacts: Gary Norman, 282-5685, or Susan Levinson, 647-3007  
Email: [gary.norman@edwardjones.com](mailto:gary.norman@edwardjones.com)  
Meetings: Call or email for information.

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

Email: [dhic123@gmail.com](mailto:dhic123@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.doloresheights.org](http://www.doloresheights.org)  
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Eureka Valley Promotion Association**

Contact: Scott Wiener, President, 437-9414  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St. (upstairs)  
Website: [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org)

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362  
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is held the day before Mother's Day.

**MORE GROUPS TO JOIN****Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association**

Contact: Gregg Brooks  
Email: [sflyric@yahoo.com](mailto:sflyric@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Email for details.

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774  
Email: [emerr@earthlink.net](mailto:emerr@earthlink.net)  
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Email for information.

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**

Contact: Laura Norman  
Email: [lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: Email for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**

Contact: Richard May  
Email: [ranibooks@pacbell.net](mailto:ranibooks@pacbell.net)  
Website: [www.friendsofnoevalley.com](http://www.friendsofnoevalley.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: First or second Thursday (call or email to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

**Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center**

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845  
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park**

Contact: Alexandra Torre  
Email: [noe\\_park@atorre.com](mailto:noe_park@atorre.com)  
Website: [www.noevalleyreccenter.com](http://www.noevalleyreccenter.com)  
Meetings: Email or check website.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119  
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

**Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group**

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310  
Email: [kendall@microcounsel.com](mailto:kendall@microcounsel.com)  
Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.  
Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a screenwriting course.

**Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"**

Contact: [noestrolls@aol.com](mailto:noestrolls@aol.com)  
Weekly Stroll: Thursday at 11 a.m., departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St.  
For details, visit [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District**

Contact: Debra Niemann, [nemo@rcn.com](mailto:nemo@rcn.com)  
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838  
Meetings: Third Wednesday, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m.  
Parking available in lot off Elizabeth.

**Noe Valley Farmers' Market**

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., on 24th between Vicksburg and Sanchez. Also, Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m., in the parking lot of the future Whole Foods, 24th between Sanchez and Noe.  
Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332  
Mailing Address: 4101 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Thursday, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

**Noe Valley Library Campaign**

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, [kkdrew@yahoo.com](mailto:kkdrew@yahoo.com); Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103  
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)**

Contact: Gwen Sanderson, 550-7577  
Email: [info@noevalleymerchants.com](mailto:info@noevalleymerchants.com)  
Meetings: Last Tuesday, Bank of America, 4098 24th St., 9 a.m.  
Mixers: Last Friday, 6 to 8 p.m.; for location call or see [www.noevalleymerchants.com](http://www.noevalleymerchants.com).

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

An e-mail resource network for parents  
Contact: Mina Kenvin  
Email: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

**Noe Valley Preparedness Committee**

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536  
Email: [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com)  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188  
Email: [contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Website: [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Meetings: See website.

**See Jane Run Running Programs**

Contacts: Shauna Nyborg, 415-401-8338; Deb DeFanti, 415-839-9393  
Email: [events@seejanerun.com](mailto:events@seejanerun.com)  
Address: 3910 24th St. (at Sanchez)  
Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com/t-Training.aspx>

**Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)**

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission  
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary  
Email: [lori@tail-wagging.com](mailto:lori@tail-wagging.com)  
Website: [www.tail-wagging.com](http://www.tail-wagging.com)  
Meetings: Email for information.

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Third or fourth Thursday (call to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

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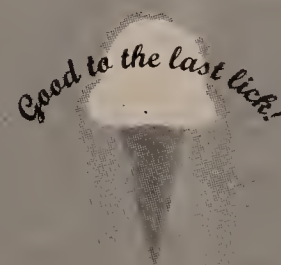
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Although award-winning author Michelle Richmond lives in the Richmond District, she writes about Noe Valley with a keen eye for detail. In her 2008 literary thriller *No One You Know*, recently released in paperback, Richmond's heroine, Ellie Enderlin, is a Noe Valley native.

"My sister-in-law and her family live on 28th

Street, and her house is the one I had in mind for Ellie's [childhood] home," says Richmond.

In the novel, set partly in present-day San Francisco, Ellie is a 39-year-old woman who has a successful career as a coffee buyer. Still, she remains haunted by the murder of her older sister, Lila, 20 years before. Her thoughts often return to the

tragedy, and to her sophomore English professor, Andrew Thorpe, who shocked and disappointed her by writing a "true-crime" book based on the case. Although Lila's killer has never been caught, the man Thorpe accuses in his book, Peter McConnell, proclaims his innocence when Ellie encounters him by chance in Nicaragua. The doubts

McConnell raises send Ellie on a search for the truth, which includes confronting the author who betrayed her trust.

In the excerpt below, Ellie visits Thorpe in his Diamond Heights home.

To learn more about Michelle Richmond, including her debut best-seller, *The Year of Fog* (2007), go to her website, [www.michellerichmond.com](http://www.michellerichmond.com).



Currently on a book tour for *No One You Know*, Michelle Richmond will appear in conversation with author Julia Glass at the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street, on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m. Richmond will also read at a Litquake event on Saturday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m., at the Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd Street.

Photo by Alamy Richmond

from the novel

## No One You Know

BY MICHELLE RICHMOND

I took the stairs to the second floor. I passed a closed door, behind which I could hear him moving around. I turned right and came to a square room equipped with a large metal desk, which was flanked by industrial filing cabinets. The desk was shoved against a large window. Books and papers were everywhere, and the chair was covered with file folders. On top of the desk, anchoring a stack of papers, was a pair of binoculars. The hardwood floor had ring-shaped stains where potted plants once stood. I flipped the light switch, but nothing happened.

Thorpe was walking around, opening and closing drawers. I heard him curse to himself. The fountain gurgled in the courtyard. I leaned over the desk and peered out the window.

There was a steep, wooded hill beside the house. Beyond the hill the streets of Noe Valley glowed vaguely under the automatic lamps. I felt unnerved, but I couldn't pinpoint the source of my discomfort—it was just a vague sensation of something not being quite right. I moved the file folders off the chair, sat down at the desk, and peered down the hill. Midway down, someone had set up a makeshift encampment. The end of a cigarette glowed.

At the bottom of the hill was a fence, and beyond the fence a small playground, and beyond that a narrow street lined with rows of Victorians. There were many such streets in Noe Valley, of course, but I realized with a shiver that this wasn't just any street.

From the house on the corner, I counted down the block until I came to the sixth house on the right. A light burned in an upstairs room. A person appeared in front of the window and stood there, still as a photograph. I lifted the binoculars to my eyes and experienced several seconds of confusion as the binoculars picked up the objects in front of me on the desk, absurdly magnified. I moved them back and forth, finally finding the house, the window. Affixed to the outside frame of the window was a wooden bird feeder, a Victorian house in miniature. I recognized the bird feeder immediately—the small scalloped roof, the little red door—I'd built it from a kit and painted it myself during my freshman year of college. There had been a hummingbird with an iridescent blue throat that came at ten every morning. It was Lila who cleaned the feeder and kept it supplied with nectar. After she died I forgot to fill it, and the hummingbird stopped coming.

I was looking at my old bedroom. Thorpe had a perfect view. The person standing before the window was a

woman, not much older than I was, dressed in a pale green bathrobe, arms crossed. She shifted, lifted her arm in a wave. For a moment, I thought she was waving at me. Then I saw the person on the street below her window—a man, waving up at her. I couldn't be sure, but he looked like an old neighbor of mine.

♦ ♦ ♦

I sensed him before I heard him. Several seconds passed. I kept waiting for him to announce himself, but he didn't. Finally I turned and saw Thorpe standing in the doorway, watching me. He was wearing a white cable-knit sweater, linen slacks, and leather sandals. His head had been shaved clean, and he smelled of after-shave.

I had witnessed the third transformation of Thorpe in as many days. He looked nothing like the man who had answered the door a half hour before. His demeanor had changed as well. He had a bit of swagger now. The total effect of the clothes, the aftershave, the smooth and gleaming head, was of a man who'd come to take me out to Sunday brunch in Marin.

He walked into the room and looked out the window, down the hill toward my house. For a moment we stood side by side in the darkness. His arm brushed mine, and I moved away from him.

"Bulb's burnt," he said. "Wait here."

In a couple of minutes Thorpe returned. He stood on a chair to remove the light fixture, and handed me the old bulb. I shoved it into the overflowing wastepaper basket and wiped the greasy dust on my jeans.

"How many Marxists does it take to screw in a lightbulb?" he asked, as the new bulb flickered to life.

"I give up."

"None. The lightbulb already contains the seeds of its own revolution."

"Not bad."

He stood in front of me, hands on his hips, breathing a bit faster from the exertion.

"How long have you lived here?" I asked.

"Almost ten years. Turned out to be a great investment. I got it for \$400,000. Last month, the fixer-upper across the street sold for \$1.7 million."

"You could cash out, move to the tropics, and take up a life of leisure." I thought of Peter McConnell in Nicaragua, living off the grid. I wondered what he was doing tonight, what he would make of my trek into Diamond Heights to confront the man who had ruined his life.

"Ah, yes," Thorpe said, "but what about my fans?"

"You can write anywhere."

"True, but then it's not really just about the writing, is it? You can write the best book ever, but if you're not around to do interviews, have your picture taken for magazines, show up at the book festivals, then your book is sunk, your readers evaporate, and you're alone with the blank pages."

"Is that why you do it—so you won't be alone?"

"Isn't that ultimately why anyone does anything?" He glanced out the window, then back at me. "Are you see-

ing anyone?"

"No one in particular."

I didn't like where the conversation was headed, but I wasn't sure how to get it moving in the right direction. I had come here to talk about Peter McConnell, and now I was distracted by the window. I imagined Thorpe sitting at his desk, watching the comings and goings of my childhood home. Until a year before, it would have been my mother he observed pulling out of the garage each weekday morning, my mother he saw traipsing down the street, yoga mat slung over her shoulder, on the way to her Saturday afternoon class. And, of course, every Thursday night, he would have seen me, because every Thursday I came over for dinner. I would arrive at six, and my mother and I would have a glass of wine—either in the living room or on the back deck, depending on the weather.

At six-thirty we would walk to Alice's, where we would order pot stickers, orange chicken, garlic prawns, and bok choy. Around seven-thirty, we would climb the steep hill to the house and stand on the sidewalk for a couple of minutes, saying our good-byes. This had been our routine ever since my father moved out, and unless I was out of town or had something pressing to attend to, I honored the commitment. It was something we counted on, my mother and I.

When she sold the house and moved to Santa Cruz, I had found myself on those Thursday nights feeling completely adrift. It had been such a regular part of my life for so long, I didn't know what to do with myself. Eventually I began filling the newly freed time with classes—Bikram yoga, conversational Russian, Italian cooking, even hip-hop dance—but I always felt out of sync; the only place I wanted to be was in my old neighborhood, with my mother, talking casually about our week. During those Thursday-night dinners with her, I felt I could truly be myself, relaxed, with no need to put up my guard. Knowing that Thorpe had been there, probably watching us from above, cast the whole thing in a different light.

Although the clear view of my house was the most obvious topic, Thorpe simply passed over it as if it did not exist. It was his way, again, of controlling the conversation, so that any dialogue advanced according to his own terms.

"There was a woman I was seeing for a while, a long time ago," Thorpe said. He was sitting on the edge of the desk, legs crossed at the knees, hands resting at his sides, in a posture I remembered from class. "Her name was Florence, I called her Flo. We'd been together for a couple of months when I took her to a dinner party at the home of one of my former colleagues. After dinner we were sitting in the living room having coffee when our host said to Flo, 'Funny, the moment you walked in I thought you looked very familiar, and all night I've been trying to figure it out, and it just hit me. You remind me of a student Andy and I used to have, Ellie Enderlin.'"

All this time, I'd been looking out the window. The light went off in the upstairs room of my childhood home. Thorpe stood and began pacing. Because the room was so small and overcrowded with furniture, he could only go three or four steps before turning around and pacing in the opposite direction. "What I'm trying to say is that I needed you."

Excerpted from *No One You Know*, a novel by Michelle Richmond. Copyright ©2008 by Michelle Richmond. Published by Bantam Dell, a division of Random House, Inc., New York, N.Y. All rights reserved. [www.bantamdell.com](http://www.bantamdell.com).

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